



A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire,
ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is the leading Journal addressing the chemical and drug trades of the British Empire. It is adopted as an official Journal by nineteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies, and its paid-in-advance circulation in Great Britain and all Countries having business relations with the British Empire is intrinsically and numerically unique.

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CLOSING TIME

for press is always an exceptionally busy time for all concerned with the *C. & D.* The Publisher would remind all those advertisers who have not already done so to send their instructions

For the Colonial Issue

at once. Owing to the large amount of preparatory work necessary in connection with that popular and business-getting Issue he states that he will be unable to guarantee the insertion of any advertisement received after first post on

Tuesday, April 25.

Telephone: Bank 852 (two lines)
Address: The Chemist & Druggist
42 Cannon Street,
London, E.C.

Telegrams: Chemicus
London.

Summary of this Issue.

The more notable items only are dealt with.

Articles and Communications.

We conclude our annotations in the materia medica monographs of the new German Pharmacopœia (p. 51).

An abstract of Dr. F. B. Power's paper on cucurbitaceous plants of medicinal importance is printed on p. 52.

An epidemic of cancrum oris was recently reported. We give full particulars of this disease on p. 53.

A mixture of not more than three salts for qualitative analysis will be ready for distribution on Tuesday, April 25 (p. 34).

The latest particulars of the Shops Bill are given on p. 45. Mr. T. P. O'Connor cannot act as chairman of the Grand Committee.

The dispensing notes which begin on p. 62 are concerned with a number of interesting problems, upon one of which opinions are specially invited.

We recently reproduced a prescription of to-day containing usquebagh. We now explain what usquebagh is, as few dispensers seem to know (p. 48).

The latest Census of Production tables include particulars on the manufacture of brushes and brooms in the United Kingdom. See the article on p. 49.

An important Blue-book on the trade of Canada has been issued. We deal with it so far as the chemical, drug, and allied trades are concerned in an article on p. 49.

The drugging of horses is a subject dealt with by Xrayser II., who also has interesting notes on the power of the toilet, the pharmaceutical outlook, and Dr. McWalter's idea of a pharmacists' register (p. 47).

The Week's News.

The Canadian standards for lemon and lime juice are noted on p. 39.

An explosion and fire at Bengué's chlorethyl premises in Paris is reported (p. 37).

Keen competition between Boots and local chemists is reported from Arbroath (p. 36).

The strange story of a medical man's diaries as related at Marlborough is recounted on p. 35.

The disastrous effect of a misprint in a French book on domestic medicine is related on p. 37.

The pass-lists of the Irish Pharmaceutical Licence and Registered Druggist examinations are on p. 35.

The Revenue authorities are taking action against the sale of chocolate liqueurs without a spirit-licence (p. 40).

By Government order the importation of "oxygenator" and "tuberculozine" into Australia is forbidden (p. 38).

We deal further with the question of bleached flour, and give on p. 51 the conclusions of Dr. G. W. Monier-Williams' experiments.

The exposure of the inaccuracy of dispensing in Manhattan, which was a feature of a New York journal, turns out to be "a flash in the pan" (p. 38).

Among the deaths reported on p. 41 is that of Mr. C. E. Robinson, who was highly respected by his *confrères* in Brighton and elsewhere.

Dr. Jowett, at Dartford, had something to say on the possibilities of progress of boys in chemical laboratories who supplement their education by evening instruction (p. 34).

The third annual meeting of the National Union of Assistant Pharmacists was held in Liverpool on Good Friday, and is reported on pp. 42-43. The Union has declined in membership.

The Association of County Councils of Scotland has resolved to petition the Government against the patent-medicine business (p. 36). We give the latest information from the Home Secretary on this subject. Nothing is to be done this Session (p. 45).

Trade and Market Matters.

A large find of ambergris is reported from Tasmania, particulars about which will be found on p. 59.

Trading as a whole is quiet. Opium is very firm and morphine dearer. Tartaric acid is firmer. Copper sulphate, ipecacuanha, and turpentine are dearer (p. 57).

CORNER FOR STUDENTS.

Conducted by Leonard Dobbin, Ph.D.

All communications for this section should be addressed thus: "Corner for Students," *The Chemist and Druggist*, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C."

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR JUNIOR STUDENTS.

A MIXTURE of not more than three salts will form the subject of the next exercise in qualitative analysis. The mixture will comprise acids and inorganic bases occurring in the British Pharmacopoeia, and it is to be submitted to a thorough systematic examination, all its constituents are to be detected, and proof is to be given that the substances detected are the only constituents of the mixture.

Students' applications for portions of the mixture of salts (accompanied by a *stamped and addressed envelope*, not a stamp merely) will be received up to Tuesday, April 25, and the samples will be posted on the following day.

Students' reports will be received up to Saturday, May 6. Each report should contain a concise account of the work done, and should include a list of the constituents detected. In the list any substance regarded as an accidental impurity should be distinguished from the essential constituents of the salts composing the mixture.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—The prizes in this series of analyses will be awarded only to apprentices or assistants who are preparing for the Qualifying examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or of Ireland, *which fact must be attested on their reports*. Others may obtain specimens of the mixture of salts, and their reports will be separately adjudicated, but they will be regarded as *hors concours*. Correspondents who do not state that they are preparing for a qualifying examination will be included in the latter list.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. Henry Downer, florist, High Street, Margate, has applied to the local Town Council for a poison licence.

A single sample of camphorated oil examined during the past month by the Walsall analyst was returned as genuine.

The Hants County Licensing Bench have confirmed the wine licences granted to two Farnborough chemists, on condition that medicated wines only are sold in sealed bottles as supplied by the manufacturers.

The girl strikers from Messrs. Idris & Co.'s works in Camden Town, headed by a band, marched to Hampstead Heath on Good Friday and held a meeting. The youths who replaced the girls on strike have also left their work, so that some 120 persons are now affected.

At the window-dressing competition in connection with the recent Whitehaven shopping week, Mr. F. B. Bennett, chemist and druggist, of 37 King Street, gained the third prize in the "Things to Use" section. Mr. J. Todd, pharmacist, Cockermouth, was one of the judges.

Mr. Thomas Lloyd, the dispenser at West Ham Hospital, has been in the service of the institution for thirty-six years, and during this period he has only once asked for a few hours' leave of absence. Owing to the growth of the out-patient department the advisability of having an assistant dispenser is being considered.

The death of Dr. L. S. McManus having created a vacancy among the direct representatives on the General Medical Council, Sir Donald MacAlister, the President, has notified that the election of a medical practitioner resident in England to succeed Dr. McManus will take place forthwith. This settles the doubt that existed as to whether or not an election would take place now or in the autumn, when the election of all the direct representatives occurs.

The Tiverton Town Council had before them on April 10 a proposal that the Council acquire premises at 6 Gold

Street for 1,000%, and that the same, less the portion required for street-widening purposes, be resold to Boots Cash Chemists (Western), Ltd., for 950%. The project was passed by eleven votes to seven at a meeting of the Council in committee last month, but owing to representations that local traders should have an equal chance to acquire the property, it was eventually decided to place it open to public offer for a week.

The London County Council has decided to make a maintenance grant of 3,000% to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, and in return for this grant it secures the privilege of nominating twenty-five students for one year's free instruction at the College. The studentships are to be awarded on the records of the candidates and the recommendations of their teachers. Application forms may be obtained from the Education Officer, London County Council, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C., and must be returned not later than Saturday, May 29. The number "T 2/263" should be quoted.

Birmingham Notes.

A story is going round the town that a tradesman, not remembering to whom he had sold on credit an important item, put it down on the account of a number of his clients, and to his astonishment he found that they all paid without question.

Boots Cash Chemists, Ltd., have taken a large shop at King's Heath belonging to Mr. Collins, and formerly occupied by Mr. Simmons (one of the earliest chemists in King's Heath, now out of business), and are fitting it up as a chemist's shop. It will be managed by Mr. Hague, who served his articles with Messrs. Hedges, of Dale End, but has for some time been in charge of several shops in Birmingham belonging to the company.

Dartford Technical Institute.

The distribution of prizes took place at this Institute on April 12, when Dr. H. A. D. Jowett delivered an address to the students. In the opening remarks, the Chairman of the meeting (Mr. Hesketh) called attention to the satisfactory work which had been done by the chemistry classes, and emphasised the generosity of Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., which rendered it possible for the Institute to provide this teaching. Dr. Jowett's address was particularly interesting, as shown by the following quotation:

"For a boy who has a taste for chemistry, but who is not in the position to take up the prolonged study of the science, either due to want of means or of ability, positions in chemical-works are particularly attractive. A boy having a leaning that way, and a moderately good education, enters a works laboratory, and, commencing with the small wage, learns the routine, such as the putting up of apparatus and carrying out simple operations under the supervision of a trained chemist. A smart boy may thus pick up a great deal of manipulative experience and information, but if he were not for the advantages afforded by the classes at the technical institute, he would only remain a kind of glorified bottle-washer. If he is industrious and attends the chemistry classes and allied sciences at the technical institute, he will be able to become a really efficient laboratory assistant capable of doing the practical work in the laboratory and carrying out the ideas emanating from the trained chemists and thus make for himself a position which is attractive from the nature of the work and satisfactory financially."

Liverpool Notes.

Dr. Charles Symes has been re-elected President, and Mr. Cooling Vice-President, of the Liverpool Somers Society.

Mrs. Minns (*née* Miss Thoms) was well known as an assistant in Liverpool until her marriage, since when she has lived at 35 Valetta Road, Acton Vale, London, where she has recently given birth to a son and heir.

From Various Courts.

At Oakham last week, H. W. Starling was ordered to pay 6s. costs for selling sweet spirit of nitre which contained only two-sevenths of the proper amount of ethylnitrite.

At Tonbridge, on April 12, May Emily Caroline Rowart (16), nursemaid, was committed for trial at the Kent Assizes on a charge of administering acetic acid to a ten weeks-old baby with intent to murder. Accused put

teat on a bottle of the acid and placed it in the baby's mouth. A certificate was put in to the effect that the girl was insane when she committed the act.

At the Norwich County Court on April 7, judgment for 5*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, with costs, was given against Mr. Philip Robert Hill, Ph.C., High Street, Gorleston, for damages sustained by a John Cooper, dealer, Norwich, in a collision with Mr. Hill's motor-car. Defendant stated that plaintiff's cart swerved to the off-side as he was passing it after slowing down to eight miles per hour. Judge Mulligan held that defendant was guilty of negligence, and disallowed a counter-claim for 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

At Gateshead on April 15. Theophilus E. Dawson, chemist, was committed for trial on a charge of converting to his own use moneys belonging to the Postmaster-General (*C. & D.*, April 15, index folio 531). On examination the deficiency was found to amount to 247*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, which it was stated that accused explained by saying that he had been pushed for a big bill and had got into the hands of moneylenders, who pressed for payment. A second charge was preferred against the accused, it being alleged that on March 29, 1911, he unlawfully and wilfully, and with intent to defraud, made a false entry in an account book of the Post Office, stating that the postal orders in hand and unsold were worth 162*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* On this charge also accused was committed for trial. Bail was allowed, the accused in his own recognisances of 200*l.* on each of the two charges, and two sureties of 100*l.* each on each of the two charges, being in all the accused in 400*l.*, and sureties of 100*l.*

A Medical Practitioner's Diary.

At Marlborough, on April 15, James Farquhar, medical practitioner, Burbage, Wilts. was charged with committing perjury during the hearing of a charge against Mary Ann Nash of murdering her son, whose body, it is alleged, was found in a disused well three years ago. Mr. S. L. White, for the prosecution, said that accused in his evidence gave his opinion that the deceased child was from nine to thirteen years old, and told the County Justices that he had found one permanent molar in the mouth. The jaws of the exhumed body, which would be produced, had four permanent molars, which defendant, if he had examined the jaws with especial care, as he repeatedly alleged, was bound to have observed. Dr. Farquhar knew before he made his statements, from the opening speech of the advocate for the Crown, that the evidence as to the teeth was material. Mr. White said that accused produced during his first day's evidence in court a diary, sent out by Messrs. Oppenheimer, Son & Co., Ltd., of the medical profession, from which the printed matter had been cut out, with slight exceptions. The entries concerning the case were obviously so recently written that the doctor himself agreed to produce his original note-book. In the following day, when recalled, Dr. Farquhar produced a remnant of a book of the same character, but upon this occasion he had removed the covers altogether, also all the printed matter in the earlier part of the book. He swore positively that the notes therein were written in April 1908. Unfortunately for defendant—and this was the principal reason why he stood there that day—he had left quite close to the margin of the book the commencing letters of three words. They found by inquiry that those parts of words referred to one thing only, and that was wychodine, that commodity was not on the market until after the publication of the 1908 diary. It appeared in the 1909 and 1910, but in different parts of the book, while in the 1911 edition it appeared in the identical position and type as the remnant which was left in the defendant's book. In other words, notes of vital importance which accused swore were written in 1908 were written in a book published in the latter part of 1910 as a diary for the year 1911. The age of Nash's child would be five years and nine months in 1908, and accused, finding the age he stated did not fit, whittled down to from seven to nine years. Mr. George Edgar Edmund, advertising manager to Messrs. Oppenheimer, Son & Co., produced copies of their diaries for the past four years, and said he had compared the printed matter in the exhibit produced with that in the 1911 edition and found that it corresponded. A remand was granted, defendant being released on 200*l.* bail.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Pharmaceutical Licence Examination.—The following have passed: Denis Slattery, Kildimo; William Mitchell Keys, Belfast; James Stephen Collins, Miltown-Malbay; Michael Ryan, Knocklong. Twenty candidates were rejected.

Registered Druggist Examination.—The following have passed: James Duggan, Dublin; William Fee, Belfast; David Hosie (jun.), Belfast; David Davidson Kell, Belfast. Eight candidates were rejected.

Brevities.

Sir Charles A. Cameron, Dublin, has been appointed Deputy Grand Master of the Irish Freemasons, in place of Sir James Creed Meredith, resigned.

The recent dinner held in connection with the Irish Chemists' Assistants' Association has resulted in a surplus of receipts over expenditure to the benefit of the funds of the Association.

At a meeting of the Public Health Committee of Belfast Corporation on April 13, it was decided to recommend the Council to increase the salary of the City Analyst, Mr. J. H. Totten, by 100*l.*

At the annual inspection of the 1st Belfast Company of the Boys' Brigade last week, Mr. S. E. C. Acheson, registered druggist, Cromac Street Medical Hall, acted as judge in the ambulance competition.

Dr. S. G. Connor, who has been appointed medical officer to the Westminster Union, is a brother of Mr. J. E. and Mr. W. H. Connor, of Messrs S. Connor & Son, chemists, Newry and Warrenpoint.

Mr. Charles McCann, Ph.C., manager of Corry Medical Hall, Baltinglass, has removed to Castlebar. At a meeting of the Baltinglass Town Hall Club a resolution was passed wishing Mr. McCann success in his new sphere of duty.

This week's issue of "Mayfair" contains a coloured cartoon of Sir William Whitla, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Belfast, together with a biographical sketch of the career of this distinguished Irish physician.

Guardians' Affairs.

The Clare Co. Infirmary have accepted the tender of Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., Dublin, for medicines at 30 per cent. discount, and for medical and surgical appliances at 27½ per cent. discount.

The Local Government Board has written to Boyle Board of Guardians pointing out that inviting tenders for the post of apothecary to the Union is most objectionable. The Guardians should be influenced only by the question of the competency of the candidates and not by the rate of remuneration. The Guardians have now decided to advertise for candidates at a fixed salary.

At a meeting of the Macroom Board of Guardians a letter was read from the Local Government Board regarding the restriction of tenders for medicine to Irish firms, and hinting that recoupment might not be allowed, as such a proceeding is in defiance of the law. The Guardians adhered to their original idea of giving the contract to a Cork firm, on the ground of convenience.

Mr. Robert Walsh, liquidator of John Clarke & Co., Ltd., Belfast, has written to the Waterford Guardians offering to continue the company's contract for the supply of surgical appliances, and the offer was accepted. The Athy Guardians received a similar letter, but postponed consideration of the question; the Limerick Guardians are re-advertising for tenders; whilst the Naas and Mountmellick Boards have given the contract to Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, whose tender was the next lowest. The Thomastown Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Sumner & Co., Liverpool, for drugs at 27½ per cent. and that of Messrs. Fannin & Co., Dublin, for appliances at 35 per cent. The Bandon Guardians have also

awarded the medicine contract to Messrs. Sumner & Co., theirs being the next lowest tender to Messrs. Clarke's.

Dental Commissions.

At the Waterford Quarter Sessions on April 13, County Court Judge FitzGerald heard the case of English v. Cole & Co. This was an action by Ellen Mabel English, of Manor Street, Waterford, to recover from Messrs. Cole & Co., dentists, The Mall, Waterford, the sum of 15*l.*—5*l.* being for commission under agreement, at the rate of 1*s.* on the 1*l.* on 100*l.* cash collected by the plaintiff from defendants' customers in the city of Waterford; and 10*l.* being for commission due to the plaintiff by defendants on orders for teeth obtained by the plaintiff for the defendants in Dublin, at defendants' branch house in Dublin. The Judge dismissed the case on the merits.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. D. S. Allan's pharmacy is being transferred from 66 to 35 Holburn Street, Aberdeen.

The businesses of the late Mr. A. B. Anderson, chemist, at 38 and 201 Princes Street, Dundee, have been disposed of to Mr. Joseph Williamson, Ph.C., 219 Albert Street, Dundee.

At the quarterly meeting of the Dunfermline Co-operative Society, Ltd., held last week, it was stated that the drug department was the only one to show an increase during the past year.

Mr. T. Harley, chemist, Perth, presided at the annual reunion dinner in the Queen's Hotel, Dundee, of old Morgan Academy Boys. In proposing "The Old School," Mr. Harley made a suggestive speech on education.

A live West Indian snake, 2 ft. long, was found in a banana box at Kirkcaldy last week, and was taken to Mr. Low, of Mr. David Storrar's pharmacy, who, as Treasurer to the local Naturalists' Association, is introducing it to his fellow-members.

Competition in Arbroath.

Boots Cash Chemists, successors to Mr. Naysmith, chemist, 154 High Street, Arbroath, have begun to advertise locally, and took a full page in the "Arbroath Herald" of April 14, quoting some prices. The next day Mr. James Jack, Ph.C., took a large space in the "Arbroath Guide" heading it: "Comparisons are Odious—The Philanthropist and Antediluvian Prices." In Boots' advertisement the "Arbroath chemists' price-list rate" of certain proprietaries was quoted, along with "Boots' selling price." Mr. Jack responded with the "Arbroath chemists' price-list rate in 1906." "Boots' current price-list," and "Jack's price-list, 1899-1911." With three exceptions all were the same, and the exceptions were $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* lower. Mr. Jack added: "Do not be misled by vague statements as to prices, quality considered, for drugs, chemicals, and patents. We were leaders in 1888, 1889, and 1911. Others only follow."

Edinburgh.

Mr. J. C. Jaques has joined Messrs. Harkness, Beaumont & Co.'s representative staff.

It is rumoured that a Glasgow firm has purchased three pharmacies in busy thoroughfares of the city.

The half-yearly report of the St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association, Ltd., Edinburgh, states that the turnover at the five retail drug branches was 3,650*l.*, with profit of 2,511*l.*, as compared with 3,066*l.* and 2,214*l.* respectively in the previous half-year, and 3,143*l.* and 2,247*l.* in the corresponding period of last year.

The Formula on the Label.

The Association of County Councils of Scotland held its annual meeting in Edinburgh on Thursday, April 13. Among the matters discussed was a proposal that the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts should be amended so as to provide that for medicines supplied otherwise than upon medical, dental, or veterinarian prescriptions each packet should contain the name and quantity of each of its constituents, and that nothing short of such publication should be permitted; that the label should

be made to constitute a warranty, and that false description should be made an offence; and further, that the provisions of the Acts should be applied to proprietary medicines. It was also proposed that copies of the resolution should be sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary for Scotland, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Local Government Board of Scotland. Mr. Wyllie (Dumbarton) moved the resolution, and said that there is a gigantic trade in secret remedies, commonly known as quack medicines, which the Acts do not touch. He spoke of people who are addicted to taking such medicines, the revenue from them, and what the British Medical Association has been doing about the matter, characterising the business as a swindle. He also proposed that in addition to those bodies mentioned in the motion the Executive Committee's report should be sent to the Local Government Board for England, the Association of County Councils in England, and the Society of Medical Officers of Health in England. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Glasgow.

Mr. George Sutherland, chemist, has been elected a member of Bonhill School Board.

Salvarsan ("606") is receiving much attention from local medical men. The profit to chemists makes it a welcome addition to their stock.

Among the names of successful candidates for the medical third professional examination is that of Mr. Alex. Davidson, chemist and druggist.

The window displays in town now are evidence of approaching summer. Salines and blood mixtures intermingle with sponges, bathing caps, and toilet necessities.

Messrs. Barnett & Foster, manufacturers of aerated-water machinery and materials, Niagara Works, London, N., have opened a Scottish showroom and depôt at 100 Bath Street, Glasgow.

A private meeting of the creditors of Rodger Russ & Co., Carlisle, described as chemists, was held on April 5. The accounts show liabilities amounting to 131*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, with preferential creditors for 27*l.* 10*s.* The assets (after deducting preferential claims) are given at 59*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, showing an apparent dividend of 9*s.* in the pound, subject to costs and contingencies of realisation. The debtor made an offer at the rate of 10*s.* in the pound, payable 2*s.* 6*d.* on May 1, and instalments of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound at three months from each said date. He had no security to offer, and it was left in the hands of a committee to adjust with debtor the terms of payment. The creditors include: John Timpson & Co. (13*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*); C. de Trey & Co. (5*l.* 4*s.*); Pennsylvania Dental Manufacturing Co. (7*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*); H. E. Matthews & Co., Bristol (6*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*); Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield (5*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*); Standard Tablet and Pill Co., Ltd., Hove (21*l.* 9*s.*).

INDIA AND THE EAST.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

MESSRS. IRWIN MONRO & Co.'s tender for the supply of indigo for the years 1911 and 1912 to the Government Leper Hospital, Madras, has been accepted.

NATIVE CHEMIST SUEB.—At the Calcutta High Court on March 29 Mr. Justice Stephen delivered judgment in the case brought by Elvira Molinero against Dinshaw Ruttonjee Kotwal, trading as Cooper & Co., chemists, claiming Rs. 10,000 as damages. The plaintiff sued him for damages for negligence on his part in supplying medicine—a blister—when he was given an order in writing for a belladonna plaster. The plaintiff, in pursuance of the advice she had received from her medical adviser, applied the blister in such a way as to cause her very severe pain. His Lordship, in the course of his judgment, said he was of opinion that the plaintiff was very much hurt indeed, without any negligence on her part, and that she was confined to her room for something more than ten days. The conclusion which his Lordship came to was that she was entitled to Rs. 300 for the inconvenience she had suffered, and Rs. 500 for the loss she had incurred. Judgment was given for this amount.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

CANCER STATISTICS.—Dr. Jacques Bertillon, chief of the Statistical Department of the City of Paris, has published some interesting statistics concerning the frequency of cancer in France. He shows that the warmer, or southern, regions enjoy a comparative immunity from cancer as against the northern and colder districts. The country regions have also a distinct advantage over towns in this respect. The proportion of deaths from cancer is given as 76 per 100,000 in France, as against 91 in Great Britain.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PARIS.—The recently issued 37th annual report of this Chamber gives an interesting record of a successful year's business, including details of work accomplished in connection with Customs tariffs and classifications which have been beneficial to British exporters to France. Useful endeavours in connection with the repression of the fraudulent use of British trade-marks in France are also recorded, and the new French Customs Tariff of April last is carefully reviewed.

A CURE FOR OBESITY.—Dr. Albert Robin is one of the leading fashionable physicians in Paris at the present time; in fact, most pharmacists in the west-end of Paris would probably quote his name first. This fact gives some interest to a simple *régime* for obesity indicated by him, the details of which he gave to the Paris Academy of Medicine last week. Contrary to all treatments on the same subject, Dr. Robin allows his patients to both eat and drink as they please, provided they limit themselves to the *régime* he prescribes. The most important point in the cure of stout people, according to the eminent doctor's method, is that they should in the first place abstain from all drugs and medicines absolutely and entirely. Five meals more or less copious should be taken by the person seeking to lose weight, a special diet being indicated. A feature of the treatment is that a large cup of hot water should be taken with each meal, in the form of weak tea or water with a little peppermint.

SERIOUS ALCOHOL EXPLOSION.—A terrible explosion occurred last Saturday morning, April 15, at 47 rue Blanche, Paris, in the warehouse used by Dr. Bengué for packing his pharmaceutical preparations and specialties, the principal one of which is chloroethyl, the local anaesthetic. At about half-past eight one of the packers was moving a can containing some fifty litres of the preparation when the bottom fell out and the vapour rapidly filled the room, followed suddenly by a terrific explosion, which blew out the windows, and the premises immediately caught fire. The staff in the room consisted of three women and a man. They were all seriously injured by burns and their piercing cries brought immediate help. Ambulances conveyed them to the Lariboisière Hospital. Another victim was a girl of 16, Mlle. Louise Jacquelin, who jumped from a second-floor window into the courtyard and fractured her skull. After a good deal of trouble the firemen succeeded in subduing the flames, which at one time were spreading very rapidly. The official report suggests that the direct cause of the explosion was the heating stove, which set fire to the explosive mixture of ethereal vapour and air. Two of the victims died last Sunday and a third is in an alarming condition. Dr. Bengué's manufactory is in the suburbs of Paris, the warehouse where the accident occurred being used merely for packing and as a laboratory.

DEATH OF M. RIÈTHE.—The death is announced, at Billancourt, near Paris, of M. Victor Rièthe at the age of fifty-three. He was born at La Bassée, Nord, and was a student at the Paris School of Pharmacy. Soon after having qualified, he commenced business in the 10th Arrondissement of Paris, a thickly populated manufacturing district. He came into prominence in 1890 by his election as a member of the Council of the General Association of French Pharmacists, and three years later became General Secretary of this great National Trade Association. He was Vice-President in 1895, and President from 1896 to 1903. His incessant activity, comparative youth, and

shrewd conciliatory attitude made him in many ways a striking figure at the vivacious gatherings of this epoch, when wordy warfare was waged between pro-patent and anti-patent medicine champions whenever occasion offered. It was during this period that the journal of the Association came into being, and with characteristic capacity for work, he occupied the editorial chair until 1907, and was ever an appreciative friend and colleague to the *C. & D.* The old-age pension scheme for pharmacists was another fruit of his activity. He was only at one time a candidate for municipal honours, which is so frequently a stepping-stone to Parliament, but he will be best remembered as a hard-working advocate of trade interests, as well as a genial and attractive personality.

"THE PEOPLE'S DOCTOR."—A fatality due to a misprint in a work known as "The People's Doctor" had its sequel in the Paris Law Courts last Saturday. According to the evidence, a cabinet-maker named Tournieux went home one day the worse for drink and asked his wife to send to a pharmacist for an antidote, as he had some work to terminate. The wife looked up a prescription in a book from the family library, which was "The People's Doctor" in question, and copied the following formula: Water 100 grammes, peppermint water 15 grammes, ammonia 15 grammes. To be taken in two or three doses. She copied this recipe carefully and sent it to M. Ravault, pharmacien, 52 rue de Folie Regnault, who duly dispensed the preparation, which the cabinet-maker took and died, poisoned. Why and how remained to be proved. Inquiry showed that the author of the medical book in question is Dr. Georges Migot, a Parisian practitioner, but who used the name Dr. Dayaud for it. The work was originally published at Ghent, and only issued later in Paris. But in the later edition a grave error crept in, and the formula that contained the indication 15 grammes of ammonia should have read 15 drops. Under the guidance of her legal advisers, Mme. Tournieux prosecuted Dr. Migot and M. Ravault for homicide by imprudence, the latter being also charged with supplying a remedy without a doctor's prescription, which is an infraction of the Pharmacy Law. The doctor was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and the pharmacist to one month, but the sentences were rescinded under the First Offenders Act. They were further condemned to pay jointly 1,200 fr. (48*l.*) damages and an annual pension of 300 fr. (12*l.*) to the widow, as well as an annual pension of 200 fr. (8*l.*) to each of the children until the age of eighteen years.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

Cape of Good Hope.

MR. A. E. A. TOTHILL, chemist, Cape Town, proprietor of the business known as C. H. Bosenberg's Swan Pharmacy, one of the oldest in South Africa, who recently consulted his creditors, has been granted his rehabilitation.

Rhodesia.

IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA.—The Postmaster-General for Southern Rhodesia has notified that from April 1 last the rate of postage on letters from Southern Rhodesia to the United Kingdom and all parts of the Empire where the Imperial penny postage scheme has been adopted, will be reduced to 1*d.* per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Transvaal.

MESSRS. STUTTAFOORD & Co., the well-known storekeepers of Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, were fined 7*l.* for selling proprietary articles containing poison, these including Winslow's soothing syrup and Chamberlain's colic remedy. In evidence it appeared that the firm bought about 300*l.* worth of perfumes, soaps, and proprietary medicines from John Mackintosh & Co., Ltd., Beresford Buildings, and sufficient trouble had not been taken to see that no poisonous proprietary medicines were included in the purchase.

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of nine Societies of Chemists in Australia and New Zealand, as well as to other Chemists in business there.

The Commonwealth.

IMPORTS PROHIBITED.—Under the Customs Act, 1901, power is given to the Governor in Council to prohibit imports of certain appliances, instruments, or preparations. In accordance with this a proclamation has been gazetted that from March 1 the importation into the Commonwealth is prohibited of the instrument known as the "Oxygenator," manufactured by the Oxygenator Co., Buffalo, N.Y., and the preparation known as "Tuberculozyne," a remedy for consumption, manufactured by the Derk P. Yonkerman Co., Ltd., London.

New South Wales.

MR. GEORGE CHARLES ELLIOTT, of Elliott Bros., who died at Balmain last October, left estate valued at 65,543*l*.

SEDGLEY & WOOLNOUGH PROPRIETARY, LTD., Sydney, have been dissolved, and Mr. H. A. Woolnough continues the business as Woolnough Proprietary, Ltd.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.—At the monthly meeting, held at Sydney on February 14, it was resolved to contribute an annual subscription of two guineas to the Australian Pharmaceutical Conference instead of bi-annually. One thousand copies were ordered of the "Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary," and more may be obtained when the cost is known.

New Zealand.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The New Zealand Government has decided to contribute 2,000*l*. towards the expenses of the visit to Australia, which will probably include New Zealand.

Queensland.

RECIPROCITY EXPERIENCE.—Nearly thirty Queenslanders have taken advantage of the reciprocity clause and under certificates of competency secured registration in the Southern States. Twenty-three have returned to Queensland. About a dozen holders of certificates of competency from the other States have been registered in Queensland. It seems as though Queenslanders go South to gain experience in the more populous cities, but southerners apparently go to Queensland to stay.

Victoria.

TANSY PILLS.—Mr. John Duncan, chemist, Bairnsdale, was on February 2 committed for trial for selling drugs, alleged to be noxious, for an unlawful purpose. The Government analyst reported that the pills in question contained aloes, iron sulphate, tansy, pennyroyal, and some other organic substance which could not be identified. The pills, said this witness, would be injurious if taken in excess. At the General Sessions on March 2 Mr. Duncan was acquitted, as it was not proved that he knew the purpose for which the pills were to be used.

DELIVERY OF GOODS AFTER HOURS.—The Factories and Shops Act Amendment passed at the end of last session made an amendment in section 40 of the Factories and Shops Act, 1907, which had also been amended by the Act of 1905. This section limits the hours when goods can be delivered, and although it applies to all classes of goods, the pharmacist with the occasional need to deliver after six o'clock, the ordinary hour of closing, is the one most likely to be affected. The needs of the public, however, will always be regarded by the department, and it will have to be very habitual breach of the Act that will bring a pharmacist under the notice of the department. The clause applies as well to the pharmacist himself delivering urgent medicines.

Western Australia.

HEALTH BILL.—In the final rounds between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council many clauses were discussed, but the only one of direct interest to chemists is clause 187. At the instance of the Legislative Council, power to take action against proprietary medicines was removed from the commissioner to the advisory com-

mittee. It will be the advisory committee which will make investigations as to medicines and report to the commissioner if they are thought to be injurious to health. The amendment suggested by the Council was adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

OUR AMERICAN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence to the "C. & D.")

President Howard B. French, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, was presented with his portrait in oils at a banquet in his honour on April 4. Professor J. P. Remington, Dean of the College, was in the chair, and the presentation was made by Mr. G. M. Beringer, President of the Board of Trustees.

Importation of British Spirits.—A Reuter telegram from Washington dated April 19 states that the Government has decided to rescind the order imposing a countervailing duty of 9c. per gal. on British spirits imported into the United States. The order was made in January last under the erroneous impression that the drawback of 3*d*. per proof gal. paid by the British Customs on spirits exported is a bounty.

The Hallberg Fund.—The movement to raise a fund of \$3,500 to pay off the mortgage on the home of the late Professor C. S. N. Hallberg is meeting with a gratifying measure of success. A number of institutions, associations, and individuals have contributed, and the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association has sent a cheque for \$500. Considering that this organisation is made up of a relatively few of the older druggists, this contribution must be regarded as very generous.

During April there will be held in Chicago the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the School of Pharmacy of North-Western University. Dr. Oscar Oldberg, who founded the School, and who has consequently been twenty-five years in its service, will be honoured at the same time. It is anticipated that prominent pharmacists from different parts of the country will assemble at a banquet to be given by President A. W. Harris, of the parent university, when a handsome tribute in some form will be paid to Dr. Oldberg and a movement set on foot to endow the school. Dr. Oldberg, who is well known, by reputation, among British chemists, is a native of Sweden.

Lehn & Fink the well-known house of manufacturers and wholesalers in New York City, are being prosecuted by the Federal Government for the inter-State shipment of certain drugs, chiefly ground jalap, which are alleged to have been adulterated. The defendants set up the novel claim that the Food and Drugs Act is unconstitutional, as it delegates the establishment of legal standards to the publishers of the "National Formulary" and the "United States Pharmacopeia," the contention being that Congress has no right to pass over to anyone else its legislative functions. In Ohio a few years ago this legal point was raised with reference to the State law, and it was upheld by the State Supreme Court. In the present instance, however, the United States District Court has decided in favour of the Federal Act, and has declared that Congress has a perfect right to accept even the future and as yet undetermined opinions of admitted experts regarding what are good and bad drugs. Everybody has been expecting that this legal point would be raised, and the atmosphere will now be a little clearer.

Testing Dispensing.—The campaign against druggists, instituted by a daily journal, which was referred to in the *C. & D.*, April 15, index folio 535, turns out to be nothing more than "a flash in the pan," to quote the "American Druggist." In one case which has been investigated, and where it was alleged that rubidium iodide was prescribed, the writing of the prescription was so bad that the pharmacist mistook "rub. iodi" for "syr. rubi idæi," and used raspberry syrup. In another case two quantities of tincture of digitalis *per se* were ordered, and the dispenser's offence is that he sent the smaller amount. In many other cases the offence is that the tinctures of strophanthus and digitalis did not conform to the standards laid down by a private firm. The Mulford Co., Philadelphia, who did the physiological tests of the samples of digitalis and strophanthus tinctures for Professor Coblenz, state that they did not know the purpose to which their report was to be put, and did not authorise the use of their name in connection with the campaign. The interesting fact has also transpired that Professor V. Coblenz has resigned his chair of Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University, and accepted a position as consulting chemist to Messrs. E. R. Squibb & Sons at a salary of \$10,000 a year. It was Professor Coblenz who assisted in the dispensing campaign organised by the "World," but it is officially stated that he has not resigned from the professorship because of any hostility resulting from the action he took in the campaign.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondent.)

OPIUM valued at \$45,000 seized by Customs officials, was burned by Departmental orders, at Ottawa on April 3.

MONTREAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.—At the combined December and March sessional examinations held recently, medals were awarded to Miss G. St. Georges, Mr. E. R. Bellinas, and Mr. E. Rivet. Mr. J. de Coriales, Mr. W. J. Casey, Mr. J. Leduc, and Mr. H. Forget were also prize-winners.

MEDICAL RECIPROCITY.—In the Canadian House of Commons, Ottawa, on March 24, Dr. Black's Bill to amend the Canada Medical Act was given a third reading. Its purpose is to abolish the disability under which medical men from one province cannot practise in another province. There will be a central Medical Council which will hold examinations all over Canada, and all medical men passing will be entitled to practise in any part of the Dominion. Also any qualified physician who has practised ten years in one province will be able to practise in any other province without examination provided the province does not object. Five of the nine provinces have already passed similar legislation, which is necessary to be done.

LIME JUICE STANDARDS.—A memorandum, issued by the Department of Inland Revenue, Ottawa, on February 11, lays down standards for beverages. Among these are the following:

Lemon-juice is the fresh fruit juice obtained from lemon; the fruit of *Citrus Limonum*, Risso, has a specific gravity (20° C.) not less than 1.030 and not greater than 1.040, and contains not less than ten (10) per cent. of solids and not less than seven (7) per cent. of citric acid.

Lime-juice, lime fruit-juice, is the fresh fruit juice obtained from lime fruit (*Citrus Limetta*), has a specific gravity at 20° C. not less than 1.030, and not greater than 1.040, and contains not less than ten (10) per cent. of solids and not less than seven (7) per cent. of free citric acid. Its optical activity (rotatory power to polarised light) lies between the limits +0.5 and -0.5 of the Soleil-Ventzke scale, when observed in a column of 200 mm. length, at 20° C.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN NEWS.

AERATED WATERS IN AUSTRIA.—The manufacture of artificial mineral-waters, such as lemonade, soda-water, etc., in Austria, will in future be made dependent upon the manufacturer obtaining a special licence. The latter will only be granted after a thorough examination has been made into the applicant's qualifications to carry on this trade, the quality of the water to be employed, and the conditions under which the waters will be prepared.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN THE ARGENTINE.—With reference to the notice which appeared in the *C. & D.*, January 28 (p. 106), respecting the necessity of giving additional information on Customs declarations in respect of pharmaceutical products and mineral waters, the Board of Trade are now in receipt of copy and translation of a decree of the President of the Argentine Republic, dated January 25, providing that the pharmaceutical and dietetic products, vaccines, serums, diagnostic elements, mineral waters, etc., referred to, may, if ordered from abroad before December 10 last, be imported into Argentina up to July 1 in accordance with the regulations in force before the date of the decree in question.

PHARMACIST'S SUICIDE IN SICILY.—The correspondent of the "Matin" in Palermo reports the suicide of Signor Bruno, pharmacist, at Castro Giovanni, in Sicily. Signor Bruno, who was also a professor at the technical schools, had been missing for a day, and callers at his house failing to obtain any answer, the police were summoned and the door burst in, when the bodies of the pharmacist, his wife, and two children were discovered. The pharmacist, held in his hand a loaded pistol, and each of the victims had a ball in the right temple. Pills of potassium cyanide and strychnine, and instructions in the handwriting of Signor Bruno leaving all his goods to a son in Catania, were found on the premises.

Contracts.

The following tenders have been accepted by the various contracting local authorities:

Barnes Urban District Council.—Hospital and General Contracts Co., for druggists' sundries to the hospital; Sonax Disinfectant Co., for disinfectants, powder 3s. per cwt. and fluid 1s. 9d. per gal.

Barnsley Guardians.—Mr. H. B. Billington, pharmacist, Barnsley, appointed chemist for a year.

Biggleswade Hospital Board.—Mr. G. Turner, chemist, Biggleswade, for disinfectants.

East Dereham Urban Council.—Mr. E. Peck, East Dereham, appointed chemist for six months.

East Ham Town Council.—For annual supplies: The Sanitas Co., Ltd., for carbolic-powder at 2l. 10s. per ton; formalin, 2l. 5s. 6d. per 10 gals.; sanitas (crude), 1l. 15s. per 10 gals.; H. E. Hope & Co., soluble creosote at 1l. 6s. 8d. per 40 gals.; Kitson & Co., coal-tar disinfectant-fluid at 10s. per 10 gals.; Hospitals and General Contracts Co., for crushed linseed at 4s. per 14 lb.; p. glycyrrhizæ co., 4½d. per lb.; p. ac. boric, 3½d.; ung. ac. boric, 7d.; ac. boric (xtd.), 3½d.; ol. olive, 10d.; paraffinum molle, 6d. per 1-lb. tin; sp. vini meth, 2s. 7d. gal; lin. camph., 1s. 1d. lb.; liq. ferri. perch. fort., 4½d.; vin. ipecac., 1s. 9d.; ol. ricini, 7d.; zinc oxidum, 1s. 1d.; liq. strychninæ, 1s. 8d.; collod. flexile, 6s. 3d.; tr. benz. co., 3s. 6d.; ung. hyd. ammon., 1s.; tr. guaiac., 2s. 11d.; ol. menth. pip., 1s. per oz.; bism. carb., 8s. 7d. per lb.; lanoline and cold cream, 2s.; "tabloids" (per bot. of 100), sodii salicylas, 10d.; pulv. ipecac. co., 8d.; phenacetin co., 10d.; cascara and gentian co., 10d.; quinine sulph., 9d.; "soid" hyd. perchlor., 10d. per bot. of 100; peptonising-powders, 13s. 6d. per doz. boxes; acid. oxalic, 4½d. lb.; ext. casc. sag. liq., 1s. 3d.; chloroform, pure, (D. & F.), 1s. 8d. per ¼-lb. bot.; chloroform B.P., 1s. 10d. per lb.; ung. zinci, 10d.; glycerin, 1s. 2d.; glycerin and belladonna, 2s. 7d.; cod-liver oil, 9d.; iodoform pulv., 12s. 6d.; potass. permang., 6d.; pv. amyli, 2½d.; syr. ferri phosph. co., 6d.; seidlitz-powders, 5d. per doz.; ol. eucalypti, 1s. 5d. per lb.; ac. carbol. liq., 9d.; liq. bromochloral co., 3s.; tr. chlorof. c. morph. (B.P. 1885), 2s.; tr. camph. co., 2s. 6d.; potass. brom., 1s.; wood-wool, 6½d.; cotton-wool, 6d.; boric lint, 9d.; lint (hospital), 1s. 1½d.; tow, 2½d.; nail-brushes, 4s. 9d. per doz.; throat-brushes, 5s.; large feeding-cups, 4s. 9d.; small feeding-cups, 4s. 6d.; plain gauze, 4d. per 6 yards; eyanide gauze, 5d. do.; iodoform gauze, 9d. 12 yards; bandages, 1-in. wide, 5d. doz.; 2-in., 9d.; do., 2½-in., 11d.; waterproof cambric, 8d. yard; minim measures (1 dr.), 4d. each; do., 2 dr., 5d.; clinical thermometers, 16s. per doz.; 2-oz. vials, 4d. per doz.; 4-oz. bots., 6d.; 3-oz. do., 8d.; rubber catheters, 4s. 9d. per doz.; bottle-brushes, 6d. per doz.; hair-brushes, 2s. each; Higginson's syringes, 1s. 3d. each; metal dressing-combs, 3d. each; small-tooth combs, 2s. 6d. per doz.; glass syringes, 2s. 9d. per doz.; foot-warmers, 1s. 3d. each; plaster, 3s. 3d. 6 yards; tins, rubber plaster, 1s. 1d. each; ice-bags, 1s. 10d. each; bed-pans, round, small size, 1s. 7d. each; do., do., medium size, 1s. 10d. each; do., slipper, small size, 1s. 9d. each; do., do., medium size, 2s. each; medicine measures, 2s. 3d. doz.; glass measures, 10 and 20 oz., 8d. each.

Government Contracts.—Admiralty: Cuxson, Gerrard & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield; J. F. Macfarlan & Co.; Liverpool Lint Co., Liverpool; W. G. Taylor, Birmingham; G. Hayner & Co., Stockport; A. Berliner; B. Lees & Co., Manchester; and Darton Gibbs Co., Oldbury, for surgical dressings. War Office: Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., for liquor cresoli saponatus (running contract). Crown Agents for the Colonies: J. Deffries & Sons, Ltd., for a disinfectant; Howards & Sons, Ltd., for quinine sulphate. Prison Commission: Corbyn, Stacey & Co., Ltd., for drugs and sundries.

Holborn Borough Council.—Tenders for the supply of disinfectants were sent by twenty-two firms. That of Adeocks' for items 1 to 9 and that of the Sanitas Co., Ltd., for items 10 and 11 were accepted.

Marlow Urban Council.—Mr. L. H. Snow, chemist, Marlow, for disinfectants.

Nuneaton.—For annual supplies: Killgerm Co., Cleckheaton; Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Cannon Street, E.C.; and the Sanitas Co., Ltd., for disinfectants.

Waterloo (Lancs.) Urban Council.—Kelvindale Chemical Co., Glasgow, for carbolic acid; Phenosol Co., for carbolic powder; Killgerm Co., Ltd., Cleckheaton, for fluid disinfectant.

Hyde Town Council.—Killgerm Co., Ltd., Cleckheaton, for carbolic disinfecting-powder.

Lancaster Guardians.—Mr. R. S. Angus, chemist, Stonewell, Lancaster, for the six months' supply of drugs, etc., to the Lancaster Workhouse.

Willesden Borough Council.—Corbyn, Stacey & Co., Ltd., for drugs and druggists' sundries to the Isolation Hospital at 12½ per cent. off list prices. Tender recommended for acceptance.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Test Case, re Sale of Chocolate Liqueurs.—At Manchester on April 12, Arthur C. Bowden, of Victoria Park, was summoned by the Inland Revenue Commissioners for selling spirits by retail in the form of chocolate liqueurs without a licence. Mr. Frank Dart, for the Crown, said that the sweets, which were marked "Chartreuse," sold at 3s. 9d. a lb., and contained from 8 per cent. of proof spirit. Mr. R. Rodger, Government Analyst, stated that chocolates named "Chartreuse" and "Kumel" sent to him for analysis contained 8 per cent. of proof spirit, while other varieties showed 10 and 12 per cent. In the case of "Cognac" chocolates the liquor was diluted and sweetened brandy, and in the others "a diluted and sweetened compounded spirit having the flavour of foreign liqueurs." For the defence it was submitted that the makers, a Glasgow firm, were under the impression that they could not be proceeded against unless the percentage of proof spirit in the sweets exceeded 3 per cent. Defendant relied upon the assurance of the manufacturers that there was only 2½ per cent. of proof spirit in them. Mr. Rodger, recalled, said the spirit was not absorbed in the chocolate, but ran out freely, the chocolates being, in fact, in the shape of small bottles. It is intended to appeal if the decision is adverse to the defendant. In view of the importance of the case the Stipendiary (Mr. R. Brierley) said he would reserve his decision until April 26. Several other prosecutions will depend upon the result.

Dentists Act.

A MANX QUALIFICATION.

At the Bolton Borough Police Court on April 13, John H. Mawson, 8 Newport Street, Bolton, was summoned before the Magistrates for a breach of section 3 of the Dentist Act of 1878. He was defended by Mr. J. H. Hall; and Mr. M. Fielding prosecuted on behalf of the British Dental Association; while a third solicitor in Mr. W. Russell (of Russell & Russell) watched the proceedings on behalf of a society of unregistered dentists. The allegation was that defendant used the words "surgeon-dentist," although he is not registered under the Act, and in County Court proceedings (see *C. & D.*, April 8, index folio 497) described himself as a surgeon-dentist. Mr. Fielding said the Association wanted to press the case. Mawson charged for painless extraction, which he had no right to do, being not qualified, and therefore not allowed, though he might sell a set of false teeth. Mr. Fielding admitted that on some bills sent in defendant put "John H. Mawson, DR." (meaning to J. H. Mawson, Debtor), without the words "surgeon-dentist."

The only witness was the County Court clerk, who entered the case of Mawson *v.* Mrs. Baxendale. He said Mawson admitted being an unregistered practitioner.

Mr. Hall (for the defence): There has been no offence under the section, and no evidence of any trading by Mr. Mawson or that he held himself out as a surgeon-dentist in the way of trade. He had lived three years in the Isle of Man till recently, and was there entitled to the description of surgeon-dentist. In Bolton he had run short of bills printed "To John H. Mawson, DR.," but had some of the Manx stationery on hand, and used a sheet. He apologised for the oversight.

Mr. Mawson, in evidence, confirmed this, and added that he had been in business thirty years, and could have registered in 1878, but allowed the opportunity to slip.

A police inspector said defendant was fined in 1902 for a breach of the Dentists Act. In view of this the Bench imposed a fine of 4 guineas and costs, including advocate's fee.

Mr. Hall applied for a case to be stated, on the ground that the prosecution had not proved that defendant was not a legally qualified medical practitioner.

The Magistrates' Clerk: If the Bench find that that is so, they will have to dismiss the case.

The Bench found accordingly, and dismissed the case.

Mr. Fielding said: I must ask for a case. I say it is not necessary for me to show that he was not a duly qualified medical practitioner.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

WALTER PRESTON, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*½* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a manufacturing chemist and drysalter carried on by W. Preston at 12 Sydenham Street, Holbeck, Leeds. The first directors are W. Preston (permanent), J. Armitage, I. Stephenson, H. Owrarn, W. Clayton, and W. Dillon.

WILLIAM B. HARRIS (COVENTRY), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*½* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a wholesale druggist, drysalter, and general merchant carried on by W. B. Harris at Hertford Street, Coventry. The first subscribers and directors are W. B. Harris, Northampton, wholesale merchant, and S. Beesley, Northampton, traveller: R.O., Hertford Street, Coventry.

G. F. SMITH & SON, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 2,600*l.*, in 1*½* shares. Objects: To take over the business of an optician, cutler, and surgical-appliance manufacturer carried on by G. F. Smith at 6-7 Westborough, Scarborough, as "G. F. Smith & Son," and to adopt an agreement with G. F. Smith, Mary A. Smith, and S. N. Todd, who are the first directors. R.O., Hertford Street, Coventry.

CONSETT AND CARLISLE HERBAL BREWERIES, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*½* shares. Objects: To take over the business of botanical brewers, picklers, and sauce and vinegar merchants carried on by Gertrude G. Chalk at Ann and Mary Streets, Consett, and at South Henry Street, Carlisle, as "Mason & Brown" and "Sinkinson's." The first directors are Mrs. G. G. Chalk (governing director) and R. B. Wallace.

Charges or Mortgages.

Under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, Section 93, the mortgages or charges therein specified are (except in Scotland) void against the liquidator and any creditor of the company unless filed with the Registrar in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Act.

Full statutory particulars of the following have been filed at Somerset House, London, W.C.

C. R. Harker, Stagg & Morgan, Ltd.—A memorandum of satisfaction to the extent of 50*l.* on November 8, 1910, of debenture stock dated October 1, 1902, securing 10,000*l.*, has been filed.

J. N. Horsfield & Sons, Ltd.—Contributory mortgage dated March 23, 1911, to secure 750*l.* charged on land and premises at Sweet Street and Spa Street, Holbeck. Holders: J. I. Kirby and J. R. Bentley.—A memorandum of satisfaction in full on March 23, 1911, of mortgage debenture dated February 5, 1909, securing 180*l.*, has been filed.

Tablos, Ltd.—Issue on April 1 of 160*l.* debentures.

DEED OF ARRANGEMENT.

Akam, Arthur, 49 King Street, Huddersfield, and 106 Dewhurst Road, Fartown, Huddersfield, Chemist and Photographic Dealer.—Assignment upon trust, etc., except household furniture, etc. Trustee: H. V. Wood, Market Place Chambers, Huddersfield, C.A. Dated, April 10; filed, April 11. Secured creditors, 11*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 372*l.*; estimated net assets, 283*l.* Among the creditors are: Potter & Clarke, Ltd (13*l.*); Lofthouse & Saltner, Ltd, Hull (25*l.*); Hirst, Brooke & Hirst, Ltd, Leeds (25*l.*); Raimes & Co., York (22*l.*).

BIRTHS.

AMOS.—At Gazley, Colwall, Malvern, on April 15, the wife of Samuel E. Amos, pharmacist, of a daughter.

POUT.—At the Galen Pharmacy, Worcester, on April 13, the wife of Donald G. Pout, chemist and druggist, of a son.

RUOFF.—At 10 London Road, Portsmouth, on April 17, the wife of F. H. Ruoff, chemist, of a son.

WOLFF.—At 180 Philip Lane, Tottenham, London, N., on April 20, the wife of Hugo Wolff, chemist and druggist, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

FERGUSON—OGILVIE.—At Maritzburg, Transvaal, on April 12, by the Rev. A. E. Horsfall, James Sheriff Ferguson, chemist, Newlands, Johannesburg (formerly of Dundee, N.B.), to Lilly, eldest daughter of Mr. W. C. Ogilvie, Newclare.

HOLLAND—DICKINS.—At Christchurch, Bridlington, on April 15, by the Rev. E. Mulholland, M.A., Frank William Crossley Holland, F.C.S., pharmacist (of Menley & James, Ltd.), only son of the Rev. M. Holland, F.L.S., Coleshill, to Flora Irene, youngest daughter of Mr. A. C. Dickens, Bridlington.

HOVENDEN—FRANCIS.—On April 15, at St. Peter's, Belsize Park, Edward William, second son of the late Mr. Frederick Hovenden, of Dulwich (and formerly of Messrs. R. Hovenden & Sons, Ltd.), to Alice Harriet, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis, of Bridgwater.

LOVE—HORNE.—At the Station Hotel, Kirkcaldy, on April 17, by the Rev. J. Landels Love (brother of the bridegroom), William Landels Love, chemist and druggist, London, to Elizabeth Horne, Kirkcaldy.

ROWLANDS—WHITTINGHAM.—At St. Catherine's Church, Gloucester, on April 15, R. A. Rowlands, chemist and druggist, Winchester, to Lilian Whittingham, Gloucester.

RUSSELL—MACLEOD.—At 32 Ardgowan Street, Greenock, on April 18, by the Rev. W. F. Riddell, of Toxteth, Liverpool, Alexander Stewart Russell, to Christina, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Robert Macleod, Glasgow.

DEATHS.

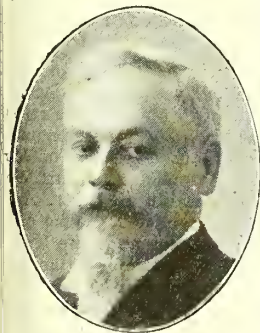
COLE.—At Biddulph, Staffs, on April 18, Mr. Reginald Cole, chemist and druggist, aged thirty-five. On Good Friday Mr. Cole appeared to be in excellent health, and drove out to Rushton. On Saturday morning, however, he had a sudden seizure, from which he died on Tuesday as stated. He passed the Minor in 1898, and commenced business in Biddulph some seven years ago. He leaves a wife and infant daughter.

LAMBERT.—On April 15, Mr. William Henry Lambert, Ph.C., The Cross, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, aged sixty-two. Mr. Lambert, who died suddenly while engaged in his pharmacy, had been in business in Newtown for over thirty years. He was a prominent Oddfellow, and one of the founders of the local dramatic society.

MAYER.—On April 22, suddenly, at 5 Chatsworth Road, Brondesbury, N.W., Mr. Nathan Mayer (of Messrs. J. L. Lyon & Co., 75 Mark Lane, E.C.), aged forty-seven. [Announcement will be made to the trade in a few days.]

MEINERTZHAGEN.—As briefly recorded last week, the death occurred at his residence, on April 7, of Mr. E. J. H.

Meinertzhagen, of Lillford House, Crook Log, Bexley Heath, and 9 Mincing Lane, London, E.C. Mr. Meinertzhagen, who was a Belgian by birth, came to England in 1864, finding employment with the late Mr. H. C. Schneidt, of Mark Lane. About 1871 he commenced business on his own account at 9 Mincing Lane as a drug merchant, and as time went on he, at his works at Bexley Heath, devoted part of his business to the washing, garbling, and sorting of drugs, whereby he brought into commerce selected qualities of ipecacuanha, myrrh, calumba,



MR. E. J. H. MEINERTZHAGEN.

olibanum, etc., guaranteeing the soundness and quality under a special brand in original packages. As a linguist, Mr. Meinertzhagen was exceptionally clever, and could speak five languages. His parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gottfried Meinertzhagen, of Cologne, were descendants of a family named after Meinertzhagen in Westphalia. They had fifteen chil-

dren, and the late Mr. Meinertzhagen was the tenth child. He leaves a widow and eight children (six sons and two daughters). The funeral took place in the family grave at Abney Park Cemetery, the six sons acting as pall-bearers.

RIDING.—At Plumstead, Kent, on April 10, Eleze Riding, wife of Mr. A. C. Riding, wholesale druggist, Plumstead.

RIGBY.—At 6 Scarsdale Road, South Harrow, on April 13, Ethel May, wife of Mr. W. Rigby, chemist, Beechfield, Sheffield Road, Barnsley, aged thirty-five.

ROBINSON.—At 4 Victoria Terrace, Hove, on April 17, from pneumonia, Mr. Charles Edwin Robinson, pharmaceutical chemist, aged forty-two.

Mr. Robinson was apprenticed to Mr. E. S. Bradley, Asbourne, and from there went as an improver to Messrs. Fletcher & Palmer, Cheltenham. He was under Mr. John Fletcher for five years, then entered the Square School in 1893 and took the silver medal in botany as well as negotiating the Minor and Major. While at the Square, Mr. Robinson captained the football and cricket clubs, and with Mr. E. H. Gane inaugurated the smoking-concerts. The next six years were spent with Messrs. Dinneford & Co., Bond Street, where he had charge of the dispensing department. Mr. Robinson retained his friendship with Mr. Michael Carteighe, the proprietor of Dinneford's, up till the time of Mr. Carteighe's death last year. When in London Mr. Robinson was an active member of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, and served in the offices of Secretary and Vice-President. He purchased the business at Hove in 1899 from Mr. Littlefield, and since 1905 had been Hon. Secretary of the Brighton Association of Pharmacy. He was much esteemed by the members for his courteous manner and untiring devotion to the Association. Mr. Robinson leaves a widow and four young children.



MR. C. E. ROBINSON.

WESTOVER.—Recently, Mr. John Turton Westover, chemist and druggist, of the Medical Hall, Bull Ring, Kidderminster, aged forty-five. Mr. Westover, who died after a long and trying illness, was originally in business with Mr. Steward, and became sole proprietor on the latter's retirement.

WILLIAMS.—On April 10, Mr. William John Williams, chemist and druggist, Rhosmaen Street, Llandilo, aged seventy-five. Mr. Williams had been in business in the town for forty-five years.

WILLS PROVEN.

MR. WILLIAM HUDSON, B.Sc., F.C.S., of The Museum Studio, Cole Park Road, Twickenham, who died February 23, left estate valued at 2,947l. gross, with net personality 1,909l. 8s. 6d.

MR. ALFRED JAMES CALDERARA, 24 Muswell Rise, Muswell Hill, N., and 10 Cross Street, Hutton Garden, London, E.C., scientific-instrument maker, who died January 27, left estate of the gross value of 14,562l., with net personality 5,724l.

MR. FRANK RAWLINSON DUDDERIDGE, 22 Grosvenor Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, and formerly of Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, pharmaceutical chemist, who died January 19, left estate valued at 1,197l. gross, with net personality 1,179l.

MR. JOSEPH EDWARD RILEY, of Arden Hall, Accrington, Lancs, and of Hapton, Lancs, manufacturing chemist, of the firm of Messrs. John Riley & Sons, who died on November 24 last, left estate of the gross value of 135,170l., with net personality 129,722l.

MR. WILLIAM ALBERT WRENN, Mountlands, Taunton, chemist and druggist, who died March 21, left estate valued at 7,435l. 2s. 11d. gross, with net personality 3,106l. 1s. 8d. Probate of his will dated February 9, 1894, has been granted to Mr. Chas. Leslie Davies, 27 Clement's Lane, London, E.C., chartered accountant, and Mr. Henry James Perrett, 90 Victoria Street, London, S.W., chemist. The testator left 50l. to his wife, 20l. each to the executors of his will, and the income from one-half of his residuary estate to his wife for life, and the ultimate residue of his estate, subject thereto, to his children equally.

National Union of Assistant Pharmacists.

THE third annual meeting of the members was held at the Stork Hotel, Liverpool, on April 14. In the absence of Mr. James Smith (President), Mr. J. J. B. Waldron (President-elect) took the chair, among those present being Mr. E. S. Francis, Hon. General Secretary (Birmingham), Messrs. Jas. Anderson (Glasgow), T. Ashworth (Liverpool), F. Bentley (Birmingham), V. Bottomley (London), W. B. Burn (Liverpool), E. G. Douthwaite (Sheffield), J. E. Greener (Walton), and B. Whalley (Liverpool).



MR. J. J. B. WALDRON.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman deplored the absence of Mr. Smith, who was indisposed. He paid a tribute to him, saying that for his foresight and ability the Union was greatly indebted, and expressed the hope that Mr. Smith would soon be restored to sound health. It was agreed to forward Mr. Smith the thanks of the Union. The Hon. General Secretary read the correspondence, which included letters from the Newcastle and Bristol

branches regretting their inability to send delegates, but expressing their opinions on the various matters down for discussion. A letter was also read from Mr. Dowty regretting his absence through an accident. The Hon. General Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting and the annual report, and submitted the balance sheet, which showed a satisfactory balance. It was moved by Mr. Anderson (Glasgow) and seconded by Mr. Douthwaite (Sheffield) that the balance sheet be accepted provisionally on its being signed by the two auditors and a printed copy be sent to each member of the Union. The President for the year, Mr. Waldron, was then welcomed by Mr. Francis, who said he was a good worker for the Union generally in his capacity of member of the executive, and in particular in organising the Liverpool branch, which had always been in the forefront. Mr. Waldron then gave his

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

After thanking the members for the honour done to him, and giving them a welcome to Liverpool, the President spoke of the excellent services rendered to the Union by Mr. E. S. Francis, and hoped he would reconsider his decision to resign the Honorary Secretaryship. He then referred to the trade-union aspect of their organisation, which has caused much discussion and, he thought, needless alarm. If the Union is, he said, "to go forward on the lines of improving the lot of dependent pharmacists, we must work on a more or less trade-union basis, though for many reasons we are not yet a registered union, as we are not likely to have either accumulated funds or benevolent schemes for some years which would necessitate the legal status of a recognised union. The past year, too, has been characterised by considerable prodigality in expenditure. The attempt to place one or more of our number on the Pharmaceutical Council was an instance of this, and we would be well advised to defer such schemes until we are more firmly established. On the other hand, much valuable work has been done with regard to the Shop Hours Bill and jury-service exemption. It has been a pleasing feature to note the increase of social functions at our several branches, at once an admirable way of advancing the social good of our members and gaining money. In the future our watchwords must be Strict Economy and a Greater Enthusiasm in the rank and file, as, after all, it is to them we must look to secure a big membership roll. We have a voluntary system which must of necessity be cheap, and you will observe we further hope to cut expense by centralising the control of the Union, thereby doing away for the present with the quarterly executive meetings. With regard to

the agenda before you, it contains one or two contentious measures, but I am confident of your powers to deal with them, and I can only express the hope that as the result of your labours to-day the N.U.A.P. will emerge renewed and stronger to go on its way triumphant."

Attention was then called to the principal items on the agenda, as follows:

Method of Voting.—Resolution: "Where a branch delegate is present he shall vote by card for his branch, and members of that branch present shall not vote. Members present who are not attached to a branch shall vote individually."

The Future of the Union.—Resolution: "That the constitution of the N.U.A.P. shall remain substantially as at present, but with the management centred in one of the branches. That the officers and executive shall be drawn from the controlling branch, except the President, who shall be nominated."

Resolution (Liverpool Branch): "That the annual subscription be 2s. 6d."

Resolution (J. Wilson): "That the Union should make for numerical strength by instituting 'Fellows' of the Union at a subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum, and 'Members' at 1s. That a voluntary fund be established for election and other purposes."

Resolution (V. Bottomley): "That trade-unionism be eliminated from the Union."

The Unqualified.—Resolution (V. Bottomley): "That the unqualified be excluded from the Union, since the experiment of their admission has not been justified by results."

The Shops Bill.—Resolution: "That this annual meeting of the N.U.A.P. asks that the principle of the sixty-hour working week be secured to chemists in the Shops Bill."

Pharmaceutical Election.—J. J. B. Waldron, of Liverpool, has been nominated as a candidate.

"The Assistant Pharmacist."—Resolution (J. Wilson): "That 'The Assistant Pharmacist' be issued, if funds permit, not less than quarterly, even if it is to be a postcard giving the results of the executive meetings."

Alterations to Rules.—Resolution: "That the executive be instructed to draw up a new set of rules."

Sundry Resolutions re minimum-wage clause and dispensing rates (V. Bottomley).

Mr. E. S. Francis thanked the President for his remarks on his work. He had done his best, and would continue to take the liveliest interest in the Union, but he regretfully intimated that he could not accept office for the coming year.

METHOD OF VOTING.

Some discussion then took place on the question of voting, different branches taking different interpretations of the Secretary's letter which accompanied the agenda. Glasgow and London had taken the view that the whole branch membership, whether voting or not should be consulted on the various points to be used by their delegates. Sheffield, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, and Newcastle took the view that the expressed opinions of the branches as obtained at meetings should be used in voting by the delegates. After a long discussion, in which Messrs. Bottomley, Ashworth, Douthwaite, Anderson, and Bentley took part, it was ruled that the expressed opinions of the branches in committee only be taken.

THE FUTURE OF THE UNION.

In considering this, Mr. Bottomley, while not objecting to objects 1 and 2 of the Union, strongly opposed the registration of the N.U.A.P. as a trade union, and it was agreed unanimously that this be not done. On the motion of Mr. Burn, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was agreed that the control of the Union be centred in one branch. Mr. Ashworth proposed and Mr. Anderson seconded that the offer of the London branch to take the management of the Union for twelve months be accepted. Mr. Bottomley submitted an amendment that the government of the Union be taken by London for such time or until the executive could meet, the time not to exceed twelve months. This amendment was not seconded and the original resolution was carried with one dissentient.

THE PRESIDENCY.

Mr. Bottomley then raised the question of the annual election of the President, and Mr. Francis explained that the Vice-President need not automatically become President, and, being this year a member of the controlling branch, he would preside in the absence of the President. Mr. Francis

removed that the President be elected at each annual meeting. Mr. Bottomley seconded, and it was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Ashworth moved the election of Mr. J. Wilson, of Birmingham, as President for the coming year. Mr. Francis seconded, and by seven votes to one this was adopted.

THE SUBSCRIPTION.

On the Liverpool branch's motion to drop the subscription to 2s. 6d. annually, Mr. Ashworth said that the decrease of membership was due to the increase of the subscription, and he felt it would be much easier to approach assistants and ask them for the small sum proposed by his branch. Their numbers now totalled 130 odd, and this, he said, could be trebled in twelve months if the entrance was made easier. Mr. Bentley, speaking for the Birmingham branch, said they were at one with Liverpool on this matter. He mentioned incidentally that Mr. Wilson agreed to delete his motion in favour of the Liverpool one. Mr. Bottomley, speaking for the London branch, said they were stoutly opposed to any decrease of subscription. Other matters, he argued, controlled the non-success of the Union; besides, there was the burning question of allotment to the branches. Mr. Francis, although in favour of a quarterly subscription of 2s. 6d., thought that members were already well burdened, as many contributed to the Pharmaceutical Society, with perhaps the Benevolent Fund, so that he was inclined to favour the Liverpool motion. Mr. Ashworth submitted that the increase last year was the direct cause of the collapse. Other members spoke, and matters seemed to be coming to a deadlock, when the President, interposing, appealed to members to consider some compromise. Eventually, Mr. Douthwaite moved that the annual subscription be 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d. to headquarters and 1s. for the branch. Mr. Burn seconded and this was agreed to. With regard to the unqualified, it was agreed that the matter be allowed to stand, the same subscription (3s. 6d.) to hold good.

THE SHOPS BILL.

Mr. Bentley (of Birmingham) said his branch desired the inclusion of the words "inclusive of meal-times" in the above motion. Mr. Bottomley also desired the addition of the words "including all hours of duty," to which Mr. Bentley replied that at the deputation to the Home Secretary they were given to understand that such was desired and intended, whereupon Mr. Bottomley moved that the motion be amended to contain his words, after the words "working week," Mr. Greener seconded, and the motion so amended was agreed to.

OTHER MOTIONS.

It was decided that the time is inopportune for the Union to consider the running of candidates for the Pharmaceutical Council.

Mr. Bottomley proposed, and Mr. Anderson seconded, the "Assistant Pharmacist" motion, also that the various branches see to its distribution.

Mr. Bentley moved and Mr. Ashworth seconded that the words "and to submit the same to the branches for consideration and amendment" be added to the motion re alteration of rules. So amended it was agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the wages and dispensing motions were a master's question entirely and not within the province of the Union.

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING.

Some discussion then took place on the question of locus of the next annual meeting. Mr. Anderson (Glasgow) issued a cordial invitation for the meeting to be held in Glasgow next year. Mr. Francis moved that this invitation be accepted, Mr. Ashworth seconded, and the voting was seven for and two against. An amendment by Mr. Burn, seconded by Mr. Whalley, that the next meeting be held in London was lost.

FURTHER RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Francis moved and Mr. Burn seconded:

"That this third annual meeting determines that the N.U.A.P. shall not fail, and calls upon all members to work enthusiastically for the Union and asks all assistant pharmacists to stand in and support the N.U.A.P."

Moved by Mr. Ashworth and seconded by Mr. Bottomley: "That the columns of the 'Pharmaceutical Journal' be again opened to N.U.A.P. correspondence."

On the motion of Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Bentley, a vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman for the able way in which he had conducted the business of the meeting. Mr. Ashworth desired to put on record the Union's very high appreciation of the noble work of the Hon. General Secretary, Mr. Francis, Mr. Bottomley seconded, and the motion was agreed to. This concluded the business.

WINTER SESSION.

Association Presidents.

MR. FRESHFIELD REYNOLDS has been succeeded in the presidency of the Cheltenham and District Chemists' Association by Mr. Joseph Arden Thomas, of Messrs. Thomas, Saxby & Milne, Ltd., who own the College Pharmacy, Bath Road; the Cambray Pharmacy, 397 High Street; and the Spa Pharmacy, Montpellier. Mr. Thomas, Mr. A. C. Saxby, and Mr. A. Milne, are the directors and managers of the pharmacies. Mr. Thomas is a Hertfordshire man, and after serving his apprenticeship in Cambridge went to Edinburgh as an assistant to Mr. Nevin, Morningside, and also had experience at Folkestone with Mr. Robert Hall. He passed the Minor examination in July 1882, and in 1883 he and his elder brother, the late Mr. James Philip Thomas opened the College Pharmacy, and ten years later they also opened the Spa Pharmacy. Mr. J. A. Thomas meanwhile held the appointments of pharmacist to the Cheltenham General Hospital and Delaney Hospital for over twenty years. Mr. J. P. Thomas died in 1909, and in December last the company was formed to amalgamate the pharmacies of Thomas Bros. with that of Procter & Forth, the capital being 5,000l. Mr. Thomas is one of those who founded the Cheltenham Association on December 7, 1903, and was its first secretary. He is keen in regard to pharmaceutical fraternity, and believes in local associations concentrating upon their immediate interests and needs. Perhaps that is the chief reason for the Cheltenham Association being so flourishing.



MR. J. A. THOMAS.

Brief Records.

Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association.—A special meeting was held in Robert Gordon's College on Wednesday, April 12, Mr. D. Anderson, President, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members. The balance-sheet of the J. F. Tocher complimentary dinner was submitted, showing a surplus of 1l. 9s. 6d., which the Association decided to send to the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund. The successful termination to the negotiations for a rise in the rates per head for the supply of medicines to the outdoor poor under the Parish Councils (as reported in the *C. & D.* last week) was also mentioned. Mr. J. McHarris was admitted to membership.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Pharmacists' Association.—The last meeting of the session was held on April 12 in the Hôtel Métropole, Clayton Street West, and was presided over by Mr. R. Wright. There were also present Messrs. H. W. Noble, W. Pescod, J. Doig, W. Kerse, F. Gilderdale, T. M. Clague, R. Culey, J. F. Simpson, E. Dean, and W. Atkins. Mr. G. Weddell was nominated as President for the ensuing year. A discussion then took place regarding membership of the Pharmaceutical Society, some thinking it should be compulsory. Mr. Simpson introduced the question of the difficulty experienced by chemists, when handed prescriptions from charitable medical institutions by out-patients, residing at a distance and requiring another supply of medicine, where the formula for mixture, etc., is known only to the dispensing staff. It was agreed that the question should be dealt with at the first opportunity.

Liverpool Optical Society.—At a meeting of opticians held at the Bee Hotel, St. John's Lane, Liverpool, and presided over by Mr. W. A. Wynne, Rock Ferry, it was resolved to form an optical society for that centre, affiliated to the National Federation of Ophthalmic Opticians. The title

will be "The Liverpool and District Optical Society," and will include, among other places, Southport, Warrington, and Birkenhead. A provisional committee was appointed to draw up rules, etc., and the following officers were appointed *pro tem.*: President, Mr. W. A. Wynne, Rock Ferry; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. Holland, Rock Ferry; Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. Moreton Parry. The subscription was fixed at 5s. per annum. A deputation from the National Federation of Ophthalmic Opticians attended the meeting and delivered addresses explanatory of the aims and objects of that organisation.

The York Chemists' Association.—The annual general meeting was held at the Old George Hotel on April 12. Messrs. W. C. Birks (in the chair), F. C. Hey, W. P. Saville, W. Dewhurst, G. E. Walker, F. A. Newey, J. A. Lupton, W. Sowray, and T. C. Atkinson (Hon. Secretary) were present. The Secretary read his report, and the Treasurer's report showed that the balance in hand had increased during the year by nearly 15%. Both reports were adopted. The Treasurer was asked to send a donation of 5*l.* to the Benevolent Fund and one of 2*l.* 2*s.* to the York County Hospital. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as under: *President*, Mr. F. C. Hey; *Vice-President*, Mr. J. Saville; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. T. C. Atkinson; *Treasurer*, Mr. J. A. Lupton; *Committee*, Messrs. W. C. Birks, M. F. Burgin, W. Dewhurst, F. A. Newey, J. R. Parker, W. P. Saville, W. Sowray, and G. E. Walker; *Auditor*, Mr. Chapman. Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.—The annual meeting of this Association was held at 36 York Place, on April 12. Mr. E. J. Brown, President, in the chair. Mr. Arthur Blackhurst, Hon. Secretary, submitted his report on the work of the session, and Mr. A. G. Collyer, Hon. Treasurer, submitted the financial statement, which indicated a balance in hand of 1*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* The annual report and financial statement were unanimously adopted. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, E. J. Brown, Ph.C.; *Vice-President*, Arthur Blackhurst; *Secretary*, George Mackie, jun., 31 Minto Street, Edinburgh; *Assistant Secretary*, George Orr; *Treasurer*, George Elliot; and *Committee*, Messrs. G. Cowie, Hamilton, Morpeth, Murray, Sinclair, Tait, Thomson, and Watson; *Price Committee*, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Messrs. E. O. Rowland, Murray, and McEwan. One guinea was voted to the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society as an acknowledgment of the privilege of meeting in the Society's House. A vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring officers.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association.—The annual meeting was held in the Regent Tea Rooms, Glasgow, on April 13. Mr. James Lennox, President, in the chair. The annual report submitted referred to a year of quiet work and steady progress. The membership had been well sustained. Eight new members were elected and three lapsed, leaving a net membership of 141. The attendance at the meetings had been good. The business of the monthly and Council meetings was referred to in detail. It was also reported that under the supervision of the Pharmacy Committee a redistribution of the Formulary has taken place, a copy with a covering letter being sent to nearly 400 doctors in the Association's district. The sale of panopepton, the price of gamgee, the sale of surgical dressings and appliances to nurses, and other subjects were dealt with. The Treasurer's balance-sheet showed that the receipts for the year were 35*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenses 16*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, being an excess of 19*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* in income over expenditure. Both reports were adopted. Office-bearers for next year were appointed as follows: *President*, Mr. James Lennox; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. James Moir and Mr. Thomas Guthrie; *Secretary*, Mr. J. H. Hart, Ph.C.; *Treasurer*, Mr. A. A. McMillan; *Librarian*, Mr. Peter Irvine, Ph.C.; *Council*, Messrs. J. A. Russell, Greenock; D. McMay, Kilmarnock; D. Taylor, Motherwell; Leckie, Paisley; and W. L. Currie, J. P. Gilmour, J. H. Riddell, J. Crombie, Ph.C., J. Mitchell Wilson, George Shiach Kitchin, J. McCowan, J. Fife, W. G. Inglis, H. P. Arthur, and A. McKellar; *Auditors*, Mr. George Mackay and Mr. Craig, Ibrox.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association.—The annual general meeting was held on Wednesday evening, April 12, in the Victoria Hotel. In the absence of the President through indisposition the chair was taken by Mr. J. C. Kidd, Vice-President. Sixteen members were present. Fifteen members had been nominated for election on the Council of the Association, with the result that Mr. J. Rymer Young and Mr. A. H. Barlow were elected to fill the vacancies caused by the death of the late Mr. J. Woodruff Walton and the retirement of Mr. W. Kirkby. Mr. A. E. H. Blackburn was elected Vice-President in place of the late Mr. Walton. The annual report of the Council showed the nature and amount of the work which had been done in the course of the year. The various aspects dealt with—trade, legal, social,

technical or scientific and educational, as well as organisation—constituted a record of activity which the Council felt could be submitted with confidence. The Treasurer reported a balance of 8*l.* on the year's working. Commenting on the reports, the Chairman referred in very feeling terms to the death of the late Mr. Walton, and Mr. Lane also spoke in appreciative terms of the long record of service rendered by Mr. Wm. Kirkby, a former Vice-President, who through indifferent health had felt compelled to retire from active work on the Council. The Secretary reported that fifteen licences were held in Manchester by seedsmen for the sale of agricultural poisons, and that in three separate cases extra licences had been taken out as the result of recent prosecutions. In the discussion which followed complaint was made of the meagre attendance on the part of Manchester retailers at the meetings of the Association, even when special arrangements had been made as to the hour of meeting to suit their convenience. Correspondence relating to the Chemists' Exhibition in London next month and to the reception week arranged by the Local Associations Committee of the Pharmaceutical Council was laid before the members. Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Wm. Kirkby for his long and valuable services on the Council of the Association, to Dr. Prentice for his assistance in connection with the curriculum scheme, and to Mr. J. F. Wilkinson for generously printing syllabuses and dinner circulars, etc., free of charge.

Exeter Association of Pharmacists.—Mr. H. Wippell Gadd, Vice-President, presided at a meeting held on April 11. The members first considered correspondence, and the Secretary was instructed to inform the Secretary of the Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse Chemists' Association that the Exeter Association could not fall in with the suggestion of a joint excursion, but some members would be glad to join the Plymouth excursion. The Secretary was also instructed to send particulars of the Exeter arrangement for Sunday duty to the Pharmaceutical Association at Bloemfontein, and to say that it works very satisfactorily by reducing unnecessary Sunday labour. Mr. P. F. Rowsell was congratulated on his election to the Pharmaceutical Council, and he suitably replied. The annual report and report of the Treasurer were received and adopted, the officers being thanked. Mr. David Reid was elected *President*, and the retiring President (Mr. F. Sloman) was thanked for his services. The *Hon. Secretary* (Mr. F. W. Vinden) and the *Hon. Treasurer* were re-elected. The discussion on the *Pharmaceutical Council's Minor examination scheme* was then resumed, and after general discussion it was unanimously decided:

1. That it is desirable that the Minor examination should be divided.

2. That the first part of such divided examination, hereafter called the "Intermediate," should consist of pure scientific subjects alone.

It was recognised that it is necessary that a sound foundation of elementary sciences should be laid down before the student can proceed to study intelligently the technical departments of knowledge.

It was further suggested that it was desirable the Pharmaceutical Society should recognise certificates from approved Examination Boards of corresponding standards in lieu of this Intermediate examination.

3. As regards the Final examination, it was unanimously agreed that it is most desirable that three years should elapse between registration as a student and entering for the Qualifying examination, and that any compulsory course of study should not exceed six months' full-time course, or its equivalent spread over a longer period.

The Shops Bill was then discussed, on Mr. Rowsell's initiative, and it was unanimously resolved:

(a) That an endeavour be made to obtain the exemption of chemists' managers from the provisions of the Bill by the insertion of words to the following effect after the existing exemptions: "Nor any person who *bona fide* conduct a business of a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908."

(b) That the time spent by chemists' assistants in what is known as "duty after hours" should not be counted as full-time employment, but as, say, one-third of such.

(c) That occasional calls upon resident assistants at night should not be counted in the number of hours which they serve.

It was decided to send these resolutions to the Member of Parliament for Exeter, and that he be asked to keep in touch with Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, M.P., so as to be fully conversant with the requirements of chemists in this matter. It was decided that chemists' shops should be closed on Coronation Day. The business of the meeting was brought to a conclusion by the Chairman calling attention to the recent Order in Council in regard to the sale of mineral acids and soluble oxalates.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

STRIKE AT MESSRS. IDRIS'.

Mr. George Lansbury is to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that over a hundred girls and women are on strike at Messrs. Idris & Co. s, mineral-water manufacturers, on account of the President of their Union, who has been thirteen years in the service of the firm, having been dismissed for being three minutes late in reaching work, and whether the Department will take action to investigate and report on the facts of the dispute.

TROPICAL MEDICINE.

Representations are being made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, through Mr. Hobhouse, by a number of members of Parliament with a view to the Government grant of 1,000*l.*, which is divided between the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine, being considerably augmented. Among those who are interesting themselves in the movement are Dr. Hillier, Dr. Addison, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Lyell, Mr. Rawlinson, and Viscount Helmsley.

PATENT MEDICINES.

Mr. Stephen Collins, M.P., has received the following letter from Mr. Winston Churchill's private secretary :

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.,
April 18, 1911.

DEAR SIR,—I am desired by Mr. Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the subject of patent medicines, and to say that he is still in communication with certain authorities on the subject. He regrets he is not in a position to give you any further information at present, but he has not lost sight of the matter. Yours very truly,

Stephen Collins, Esq., M.P.

S. W. HARRIS.

It may be remembered that earlier in the Session Mr. Collins asked the Home Secretary whether he was in a position to indicate the result of the promised inquiry into the question of patent medicines. On that occasion Mr. Churchill stated that he would make inquiry of the Privy Council on the matter.

The point raised was in regard to the ingredients of patent medicines and the ailments which they purported to cure, it being suggested that this information should be placed on the outside of the bottle or other vessel in which they were contained. Mr. Churchill's predecessor at the Home Office, when approached on the matter, favoured the appointment of a Committee to consider the whole question, but the matter was carried no further, and when Mr. Churchill went to the Home Office the question was specially brought to his notice. It now appears that the Home Office does not desire to carry the matter further, and an assurance has been given privately that nothing will be done this Session. The publication by the Privy Council of the Blue-book on unqualified medical practice was the basis of these more recent interrogations, but it now appears that the extremely prohibitive nature of the opinions expressed therein set back the inquiry.

MR. GLYN-JONES AND THE "STORES."

Our issue of April 15 having gone to press on the 12th, we had to mention in the summary Mr. Glyn-Jones's doings on that day in regard to the business facilities given by Government offices to the Civil Service Supply Association and not to other traders. He questioned the President of the Board of Education about the matter, and Mr. Runciman, while giving practically the same answer as his colleagues had done, imparted a little humour into his reply, by adding that the milkman also calls at his office daily.

Mr. Glyn-Jones thereupon asked whether the Board of Education would take any exception if the local education authorities gave the same facilities to school teachers. Mr. Runciman replied that that was not an affair of theirs.

Mr. Keir Hardie asked whether a co-operative society would be afforded the same facilities, and Mr. Runciman replied that notice must be given of the question.

Mr. Glyn-Jones next asked the Colonial Secretary what happens in his office, and Mr. Harcourt gave a similar

reply to his colleagues in the Ministry, whereupon Mr. Glyn-Jones asked Mr. Harcourt whether the Civil Service Stores are not concerned in seeking to trade in competition with other traders. The Speaker said the hon. member must give notice of such a question. Mr. Glyn-Jones asked whether the right hon. gentleman would answer the last part of the question as to the terms and conditions under which these facilities are granted. Mr. Harcourt said he did not know that there are any terms or conditions, but he would make inquiries into the matter.

Mr. Keir Hardie asked whether the articles referred to are delivered to members of the Civil Service Association while they are on duty. Mr. Harcourt replied that he was not aware, but he would make inquiries if the hon. member desired it.

The Shops Bill.

NO date has yet been fixed for the meeting of the Grand Committee which is to consider the Bill (writes our Parliamentary representative), but there is reason to believe that Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., will be unable to preside over its deliberations. The hon. member is specially interested in the Copyright Bill, which will shortly be considered in Committee, and his work in connection with this measure will prevent him taking any part in the discussion on the Shops Bill.

When the Bill reaches the Grand Committee, Mr. George Roberts, M.P., and Mr. Thomas Richardson, M.P., propose to move an addition to Schedule 1, providing as follows :

"A person shall not be employed continuously in or about a shop for more than five hours without an interval of at least half an hour for a meal, and that a person employed in or about a shop shall be allowed an interval of not less than one hour between noon and two o'clock in the afternoon for dinner, and an interval of not less than half an hour between four and seven o'clock in the afternoon for tea."

THE C.D.A. AND THE BILL.

We mentioned last week that the Chemists' Defence Association, Ltd., take exception to certain parts of the Bill. The following is a copy of the letter on the subject which the Association has sent to the Home Secretary :

SIR,—On behalf of the Chemists' Defence Association, a body numbering about 3,000 representative pharmacists in business on their own account in various parts of the United Kingdom, I am writing respectfully to offer some suggestions in regard to the above.

At a recent meeting of the directors of the Association the Bill was discussed, and the following resolution was passed with reference to Part IV., Section 16, clause 2, page 11, and Section 21, page 14 :

"That the attention of those in charge of the Bill be called to the desirability of restricting to legally qualified (i.e., registered) chemists or pharmacists the right to sell medicines and medical or surgical appliances after any closing hours that may be arranged by closing orders under the Act when the Bill becomes law."

Overtime.—My fellow-directors consider that in reckoning overtime as provided in Part I., Section 2, lines 30 to 33, page 2, the proposed arrangement that any period of overtime of less than half an hour shall be reckoned as a complete half-hour is inequitable to employers. Only the actual time worked beyond the sixty hours a week should be debited to the overtime allowance.

Closing Orders.—In the Bill the arrangements for voting apply to shopkeepers only, and we consider that this should be strictly adhered to. We understand that claims are being pressed on the promoters of the Bill on behalf of assistants that they also should be allowed to vote, and that their votes should be counted in making up the two-thirds majority necessary. This we object to. If allowed, it would not be a true reflection of the opinion of shopkeepers.

I am, yours respectfully,

JOHN W. SUTHERLAND,
Chairman of Directors of the Chemists'
Defence Association, Ltd.

VOTING-POWER.

The Public Control Committee of the London County

Council, in the course of a report to the Council, express the opinion that—

"In most districts, if not in all, the small shopkeepers are numerically much stronger than large shopkeepers, and that it would result that the question of making an order would be decided by the votes of shopkeepers employing comparatively few assistants, although the larger shopkeepers employing a much greater number of assistants might be in favour of the proposed order. It appears to the Public Control Committee that this would be an undesirable state of affairs and would tend to defeat the objects of the Bill, and they suggest that steps should be taken with a view to provision being made in the Bill that the voting-power of shopkeepers in this connection should be proportionate to the number of assistants employed by them."

ASSISTANTS AND THE BILL.

At the annual meeting of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks held in Edinburgh during Easter, Mr. C. P. Huins (the President), while welcoming the main principles of the Shops Bill, said assistants want sixty hours a week inclusive of meals, instead of exclusive, compulsory closing at least on the half-day, adequate time allowed for meals, and, in the matter of overtime, they thought that all the concessions had been in favour of the employers.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Temperatures under this heading are on the Centigrade scale.

Inactivation of Ferments.—Mr. A. E. Porter ("Quart. Journ. Exper. Physiol." December 1910, p. 375) finds that pepsin, trypsin, rennet, and a number of other ferments are rendered inactive by being kept in contact with artificial membranes, especially those formed of collodion.

A New Sanatogen Derivative.—A patent has been granted in Germany to Bauer & Co., the Sanatogen Works, Berlin, for a combination of casein and similar nitrogenous proteins with sodium guaiacol-sulphonate, which is soluble in water in the same manner as the sodium-glycerophosphate combination of casein. The compound when properly prepared is odourless and tasteless.

A New Alkaloid.—Brindejone ("Bull. Soc. Chim." 4, 9, 97) has isolated a new alkaloid from *Eschscholtzia californica*, from which at least five other alkaloids have already been separated. Each kilogram yields about 2.5 grams. It forms colourless prisms melting at 154°-156°, of the composition $C_{15}H_{21}N_2O_2$. The author has named it "ionidine." Physiological experiments have demonstrated that it is a mild narcotic, and only slightly poisonous.

Catalytic Action of Titanium Oxide.—Sabatier and Mailho ("Comptes Rendus"), in investigating the catalytic effect of titanium oxide, find if a mixture of the vapours of a primary alcohol and a fatty acid (other than formic acid) be led over a column of titanium dioxide maintained at a temperature of 280°-300° C., the corresponding ester is formed. The same limit is here reached instantaneously as was found by Berthelot after prolonged contact. An excess of either constituent favours the limit of combination of the other. Following this method, the methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, isobutyl, and isomyl esters of acetic, propionic, butyric, isobutyric, isovaleric, and caproic acids have been prepared. Esters of benzyl alcohol have also been readily obtained by this method. The inverse action—the direct hydrolysis of esters by water—is also easily effected, and the use of titanium dioxide reduces any secondary reactions to a negligible amount.

The Boric Acids.—Dr. Alfred Holt (Manchester Lit. and Phil. Soc., February 21) has conducted experiments on (1) the rate at which orthoboric acid loses water when heated to different temperatures; (2) the changes in the vapour-density of orthoboric acid on heating; (3) the freezing-points of solutions of ortho-, meta-, and pyroboric acid; and (4) melting points of mixtures of orthoboric acid and boric anhydride. From these experiments the following conclusions were drawn: (1) metaboric acid is probably a definite compound; (2) no evidence is found for the existence of boric acids containing less water than the meta acid; (3) only orthoboric acid exists in solution, and it is present in simple molecules; (4) metaboric acid cannot be regarded as an equimolecular mixture of orthoboric acid and boric anhydride; (5) fused mixtures of orthoboric acid and boric anhydride, in which the molecular ratio of the latter to the former compound exceeds 4:1, can exist in a vitreous metastable and crystalline stable form.



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INFORMATION WANTED.

We would be obliged if any reader would inform us by post-card or telephone who are the makers or agents of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries received since our last issue:

- 13/22. Gonoton.
- 12/60. "Oseton": particulars.
- 12/68. "Bow-verdin": what is it?
- 12/58. Sanford (or Sandford) library paste.
- 13/4. "Rat-tail" celluloid truss (inguinal).
- 14/57. "Robierrt's Great Consumption-cure."
- 14/33. Address of proprietors of "Neodora."
- 14/42. "Tilho" nitrous-oxide gas apparatus.
- 9/74. "Muskedine": proprietors or selling agents.
- 13/400. Electric appliance for strengthening the wrists.
- 14/39. "Chevalier Martel's Hair Restorer": address of proprietors.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles can be obtained, and in many cases we have given the actual makers. The information will be repeated to any other inquirers who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Clips for hospital beds. (1/37.) | "Lilac" soap, etc. (6/23.) |
| Collapsible tubes (Austrian inquiry). (4/46.) | Luken's sterile catgut. (4/14.) |
| "Coza" powder. (259/33.) | McKesson & Robin's quinine pills (London agents). (3/64.) |
| Dental discs. (4/55.) | Martin's rubber bandages. (5/42.) |
| Dr. John Hooper's female pills. (257/510.) | Patey's cold cream. (257/51.) |
| Emery boards (manicure). (5/570.) | "Patinol" enamels, etc. (4/40.) |
| Entrapura. (5/24.) | Polishing-pads (manicure). (5/57.) |
| "Family" rubber syringes, etc. (6/35.) | "Redio" polishing-cloths. (3/7.) |
| Fluoriform. (3/44.) | Robertson's terebene balsam. (1/39.) |
| Formatone. (1/40.) | Scholl's "Foot-ease." (3/14.) |
| "Guipine." (4/7.) | "Serag." (5/7.) |
| Heftband-plaster. (2/13.) | Stoher's bronchial-mixture. (259/21.) |
| Hobson's black bear. (5/42.) | "Uga." (3/10.) |
| "Kalodont." (257/511.) | Wooden barrels for toilet oatmeal. (5/74.) |
| "Karazona" wine. (6/280.) | |
| Kress & Owen nasal douche. (2/63.) | |
| London elastic truss (S. T. & B. & Co.). (5/41.) | |

APPRECIATIONS.

"THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is miles ahead of any other drug journal in England," writes Yorkshire Pharmacist (252/27).

"Thanks very much for your prompt answer to my inquiry. Your Inquiry Bureau is most useful for finding 'out-of-the-way' articles." (190/1)

"We beg to thank you for your letter of March 21, and for the trouble you have taken to get the information. Are writing to the firm you name." (243/65).

"We are exceedingly obliged to you for your courteous letter of March 20 giving us the address of the makers of the article required." (244/13.)

CHINESE HONEY.—The industrial taotai of Canton has given his sanction for the establishment of a company here for rearing bees and manufacturing commercial honey. This marks the introduction of a new industry among the Chinese. Foreign honey has found a ready sale in China, but little native honey has yet appeared on the market.

ST. VINCENT ARROWROOT.—The directors of the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association, which has been referred to on several occasions in the *C. & D.*, have got to work with their advertising campaign, and sample barrels of arrowroot have been sent to many large firms in Canada, Europe, the West Indies, and Central America.

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

The Pharmaceutical Outlook,

as revealed by the remarkable series of figures giving the "Preliminary" record since the 1868 Act was passed, is far from bright. Even if we leave out the two very lean years at the beginning of the present decade, we find that the average annual registrations since 1903 have been considerably less than half of what the average had been for thirty-four years previously. Moreover, assuming that the figures for the past three years are now a normal number, they are not sufficient to maintain the register of chemists and druggists at its present figure, since the annual loss runs somewhere about 400. So far, therefore, from keeping pace with the natural increase of the population, which one would naturally have expected, it will be found that pharmacists are farther below the level per thousand of the population than they have been for very many years. This is a very serious state of things indeed, and all the more so when we know that the restriction is altogether artificial and unnecessary; in fact, absolutely harmful in its effect on those whom it is supposed to benefit. Of course,

Official Apologists

will tell us glibly that twenty years ago there were far too many chemists on the register, and that a considerable thinning out can with great advantage be made. If this argument means anything it implies that a reduction in the number of qualified men leads to an increase of business and income to those left on the register, but does it mean this? If reducing the number of qualified men meant the getting rid of the thousands of unqualified chemists that are trained every year we might talk of improving the position of those left in the business, but every one knows that the unqualified problem is more acute than ever. The Pharmaceutical Council have succeeded in achieving the feat of making one registered apprentice grow where two grew before, but I fear this falls considerably short of the late B. S. Proctor's ideal, for the competition is keener than ever, and will keep on growing in spite of, or shall I say, largely because of the stupid policy that has for many years been pursued in this matter?

The Genial Dr. McWalter

is not as happy as usual in his choice of a simile. If his remedy for the present muddle takes as long as the problem of sin has taken before people are agreed upon it, then the muddle will remain unremedied during our time. I hope he will not think me inquisitive if I ask whether he himself would expect to be placed on the Comprehensive Pharmacists' Register that he proposes to establish? I am well aware that there is not a more competent pharmacist in the United Kingdom than is Dr. McWalter, but he has the good fortune to be "cut above" the common or garden chemist now. And if he, a medical man, is to be entitled to go on the Register, does he propose also to place on it the names of the thousands of other medical men who daily dispense medicines at present? Either he means this or he does not. In the former case, he would arouse the opposition of fifteen thousand pharmacists; in the latter, the attempt to restrict dispensing would arouse similar opposition from thirty thousand doctors. In either event, how is the Government going to get their "little Bill" through Parliament?

The Drugging of Horses

without their owner's knowledge is, of course, a most reprehensible practice, and one to which no self-respecting pharmacist will, if he knows it, be a party; but the Bill for which Mr. Dodson, of Sprotboro', asks would not stop it, unless the schedule of poisons saleable by "qualified chemists" only were largely extended. Indeed no extension of the schedule would confine to chemists the sale of many of the drugs thus surreptitiously administered, for they are not all poisons in any proper sense. But in many of those that are true poisons we have, as yet, no exclusive right to deal. It seems to be often taken for granted that arsenic is the drug most commonly used in this way, whereas, in my experience, it is one of the rarest. This is doubtless due to the difficulties with which its purchase is now beset, for under the name of "markery" (mercury) it was, within my recollection, in almost daily demand in some districts. Now, whether as tonic or alterative, it is largely superseded by other drugs, of which the most dangerous are perhaps the mineral acids, including butter of antimony, tartar emetic, *Æthiop's Mineral*, powdered hellebore, crocus of antimony, and white vitriol. Milder things much in demand are green copperas, dragon's blood, gentian, and other tonic roots and barks, with fenugreek or aniseed as flavourings. A good many of these popular medicines probably do neither good nor harm, but the faith which waggoners and horsemen have in them is immense. I have known saffron (or what passed as such) given in considerable quantities to horses that were being "made up" for sale, but I cannot think it would have any appreciable effect. It is quite certain too, that what is supplied is not always what is asked for. Whether it is justifiable or not to deceive a buyer in the interest of his employer is a nice point of casuistry which I will not attempt to decide; it is certainly better to refuse his custom altogether.

The Power of the Toilet

in civilised society can hardly be over-estimated; and though it is perhaps in direct proportion to the artificiality of society, we have no record of any time in which it was not a factor of great importance. More effective than mere beauty, says Miss Putnam, in her delightful book, "The Lady," is the charm which results from the intelligent aim to please, and the saying is justified by the many examples she cites. Her picture of French society under Louis the Fourteenth and his successors is the more remarkable when it is remembered that most of the ladies who were its central figures were neither unusually beautiful nor highly educated; they were simply very clever women who gave their whole minds to the art of pleasing. Some of their methods would indeed have been displeasing enough in a more natural age. The Chevalier d'Elbéc says that in the reign of Louis the Fifteenth more than 2,000,000 pots of rouge at six francs the pot were sold annually in France, and towards the end of the century, when a different taste in complexions had set in with the age of sentiment, ladies used habitually to bleed themselves to the point of exhaustion to secure the pale, transparent cheek then in fashion, just as silly girls among ourselves to-day sometimes eat raw rice for the same purpose. Cowley, in "The Chronicle," gives a long list of the "warlike things" which make up "the magazines" of our fair assailants; Pope sums them up in a line; but both begin with articles supplied by the chemist and perfumer, whose art is essential to the production of the complete *belle*. The lady of the present day, it is true, is not quite so artificial a creation as her predecessor of the eighteenth century, but, *quâd* lady, she too owes more to art than to nature, so far as her appearance is concerned, and there has certainly been, since my acquaintance with the trade began, an immense increase in the number and complexity of cosmetic preparations ordinarily stocked by pharmacists. Judging by shop displays they would seem to be the staple of many businesses, and it would be interesting to know how large a proportion of the average town chemist's profit is due to this source.



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LIQUORS

Editorial Articles.

Usquebagh.

SOME of the competitors in the prescription problem, the solution of which is given elsewhere in this issue, appear to be in doubt as to what is intended by usquebagh, one of the ingredients in the script. The prescription is a recent one, and was written by a physician with an exceptional knowledge of pharmacology and therapeutics. Usquebagh, according to Skeat's "Etymological English Dictionary" (1910 edition), is synonymous with whisky, and is a corruption of the Irish words uisce béatha, these words signifying "water" and "life." The Latin equivalent is aqua vite. The words gradually became changed to whisky. In Sinclair's "Statistical Account of Scotland" (1791-99) they are given as "whisguy-beath," and in modern times the latter word has been dropped, leaving us with whisky as the equivalent of uisce. Camden states that uisce-beatha was much employed in Ireland in his time "to stop fluxes and catarrhs caused by the excessive moisture of the climate," so that there is ground for the belief that whisky is required when usquebagh is ordered in prescriptions. This is not, however, the intention of the writer of the prescription to which we are referring. In the most recent dictionary—Cassell's "Encyclopædic Dictionary," 1910, a secondary meaning is attached to usquebagh as "a strong compound cordial made of brandy or other spirits, raisins, cinnamon, cloves, and other ingredients." Wootton, in "The Chronicles of Pharmacy," refers to usquebagh as "the most striking new formula" contained in the Pharmacopœia Londinensis, 1677, where the first and only official appearance was made of usquebagh. Until this is replaced by a later representative, this is the formula which should be employed by dispensers. It is as follows:

USQUEBAGH, SIVE
AQUA VITE HIBERNIS POPULARIS.

Aquæ vitæ generosioris libras viginti quatuor
Illis per quateriduum infunde
Rad. glycyrrhizæ libram unam
Uvarum passarum exacinat. libram dimidiam
Caryophyllorum unciam dimidiam
Macis,
Zingiberis, ana drachmas duas
Servetur colatura in usum.

A cordial tincture is thus obtained which may have fallen out of use when tinctura cardamomi composita was introduced, as the latter had the advantage of imparting a prettier pink colour than usquebagh. As an interesting example of the way incorrect statements are perpetuated, we quote a paragraph from Cooley's "Cyclopædia of Practical Receipts" (1892):

Usquebagh, synonym escubac, literally mad-water, the Irish name, of which "whisky" is a corruption. At the present time it is applied to a strong cordial spirit much drunk in Ireland, and made in the greatest perfection at Drogheda.

This paragraph is given, without acknowledgment, in the "Scientific American Cyclopædia of Formulas" published this year.

British Brushes.

THE eighth of the series of tables summarising the preliminary results of the returns received under the Census of Production Act, 1906, has been issued this week, and deals with the timber trade, into which for certain reasons, fall brush manufactures and the production of indiarubber. In the brush industry during 1909 the gross output was valued at 1,802,000*l.*, and the number of individuals employed was 11,014. The net value of the output, after paying the cost of materials and kindred outlay, was 848,000*l.*, equivalent to 77*l.* per person employed. The nature of the brushes and brooms produced is indicated as follows:

	£
Household and Trade Brooms and Brushes ... value	1,000,000
Painters', Decorators', and Whitewashers' Brushes	366,000
Fancy and Toilet Brushes (not of Bone)	157,000
Bone Brushes	92,000
Machinery Brushes	100,000
Household and Trade Brooms and Brushes and Machinery Brushes, not separately distinguished	46,000
Total	£1,761,000

In addition, philanthropic institutions employing seventy boys, four girls, two men, and two women reported that they made household and trade brooms and brushes to the value of about 5,000*l.*, the cost of materials used being about 2,000*l.* Further, firms that made their returns on schedules for other trades included in their statements of output brushes valued at 21,000*l.*, raising the values of the following classes of brushes, so far as they are separately distinguished, to 1,025,000*l.* for household and trade brooms and brushes and 101,000*l.* for machinery brushes. A voluntary question was addressed to all brush manufacturers requesting them to state the quantities of different kinds of brushes made by them. Firms the value of whose output was about one-third of that of the total output of brushes furnished this information, the details being as follows:

	Quantity Dozens	Value £
Household and Trade Brooms and Brushes	1,522,000	395,000
Painters', Decorators', and Whitewashers' Brushes	123,000	101,000
Fancy and Toilet Brushes (not of Bone)	70,000	52,000
Bone Brushes	201,000	40,000
Machinery Brushes	28,000	30,000
Total	1,944,000	618,000

The value of the brooms and brushes imported into this country annually is about one-fifth of what is made in the country. According to the Board of Trade Returns the value was 340,000*l.* in 1908; this had increased in 1909 to 370,000*l.*, and last year to 406,000*l.* The census figures for 1907 are more strictly comparative than these, and the Report states that in 1907, 488,000 dozens of brushes were exported, their value, free on board, being 199,000*l.*, or a little more than 11 per cent. of the value at works of the total quantity (exclusive of the quantity made for merchants from material given out by them) made in the United Kingdom. In the same year the imports (after allowing for re-exports) amounted to 1,387,000 dozens, their value at port of landing being 335,000*l.*, or under one-fifth of the value at works of the brushes made in the United Kingdom. These figures prove that the brushes imported are of the cheapest kind, not being, like British brushes, of that high quality and finish which command attention in all markets.

Indiarubber goods are also included in the Report. The total output in 1907 was valued at about 8,000,000*l.*, and the net at 2,969,000*l.* Included were 180,000*l.* of hot-water and air goods, medical, surgical, and dental appliances.

The Trade of Canada.

AN important Blue-book has been issued this week containing the report of Mr. Richard Grigg, his Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada. It deals with the period from July 1, 1906, to March 31, 1910. Mr. Grigg gives a general survey of the economic conditions of the Canadian market, and in the second part the import trade of Canada is exhaustively dealt with, this being followed by a survey of particular branches of trade. In the course of this he states that the total import of drugs, chemicals, etc., amounted in 1906 to \$7,425,638, and in 1910 to \$10,163,357, the following table showing the principal items of import under this head in 1910:

	\$
Gums of all kinds	2,236,848
Nitrate of soda	682,816
Proprietary medicines	614,197
Extract of logwood, fustic, oak, oak-bark, and quebracho	735,786
Brimstone, crude, or in roll or flour, and sulphur, crude, in roll or flour	430,632
Aniline-dyes and coal-tar dyes	409,658
Glycerin for explosives	504,625
Opium, crude	12,306
Cream of tartar in crystals	205,587
Liquorice in paste, rolls, or sticks	150,867
Caustic soda	235,167
Soda-ash	263,656

In 1905-6 the imports of these goods from the United Kingdom were \$807,715 dutiable, and \$937,486 free. By 1909-10 the imports had increased to \$811,590 and \$1,474,560 respectively. The United States sent into Canada \$1,006,490 of dutiable goods and \$3,433,871 of free in 1905-6, while in 1909-10 the figures were \$1,484,831 and \$5,176,779 respectively. The imports from Chili, France, and Germany are also mentioned, but the figures are comparatively small. The main items imported from the United Kingdom are glycerin, caustic soda, proprietary medicines, crude brimstone, extract of logwood, and borax. The amount of English proprietary medicines imported in 1905-6 was \$129,560, and in 1909-10 \$211,543, compared with \$329,771 and \$443,388 imported from the United States. The latter is also ahead of us in the matter of perfumes, having sold to Canada in 1909-10 perfumes, including pomades, to the value of \$210,697, while the

United Kingdom sold only \$39,599. In regard to soaps, Mr. Grigg says:

"An increased demand is noticeable for French Castile soap, there being more of this used than of any other toilet-soap manufactured. Prices are higher than previously, accounted for by the increased consumption. The demand during the past five years has been steady. The production of a well-known English brand of soap in the firm's Canadian factories is proving a successful enterprise. The total imports of soap amounted in 1906 to \$512,129, and in 1910 to \$824,030, of which the United Kingdom supplied \$45,171 in 1906 and \$72,038 in 1910; the imports from the United States in the two years respectively stood at \$386,992 and \$608,884; from France \$72,985 and \$136,991."

It is further stated that the trade in medical supplies (such as medical foods, instruments, bandages, absorbent cotton, etc.) is held almost entirely by American firms. "This is probably due," says Mr. Grigg, "to the diligence with which American houses cultivate the Canadian market by keeping in touch with the medical profession by means of special advertising in the Canadian medical publications. Very little of this is done by the British houses." There are other features in the report which deserve consideration, and we hope to return to it again.

Opium in China.

AN important article from the Peking correspondent of "The Times" appears in its issue of April 18, setting forth the present position and the course of the previous negotiations with regard to the opium trade between India and China, much of which covers facts already familiar to our readers. Another despatch sent from the same correspondent, published in "The Times" of the following day, states that a new agreement is being negotiated between the British Government and China, the effect of which, he predicts, will be "the extinction of the opium trade within at most two years, or even earlier." The following is a copy of the despatch:

"A deputation representing the powerful Chinese anti-opium organisation, acting in accordance with advice from London from the Board of the British anti-opium societies, waited on the Wai-wu-pu on Saturday to urge China to denounce the Treaty of Tientsin with the object of excluding opium as an article of trade. The last date for such denunciation is next Monday. The Ministers of the Wai-wu-pu gave, however, a satisfactory assurance to the deputation, showing that the opium negotiations are nearly concluded, that the new agreement will abrogate the existing opium agreements, that the British Government has acted most reasonably, and that denunciation would mean wrecking the present negotiations and a consequent regrettable delay. The deputation has since issued an announcement expressing satisfaction with the assurances of the Wai-wu-pu, and confidence that it is adequately fulfilling the wishes of the paramount majority of the Chinese people. The deputation has every reason for satisfaction, seeing that the British Government has conceded practically every point desired. British consent is given, first, to the cessation, as soon as China has completely suppressed the growth of the poppy, of the importation of Indian opium; secondly, to a triple increase in the duty; thirdly, to the alteration of the original proposals regarding the disposal of accumulated stocks in bond in the treaty ports. These stocks, which have now increased to 20,000 chests, may be sold without a time-limit, but in that case, during the four subsequent years, the total imports of certificated opium from India will be further reduced by a corresponding amount. The fourth clause provides for early revision if circumstances require it. The point is unsettled as regards the provinces, but it is understood that England will agree, as each province suppresses the growth of the poppy and forbids the import of native opium into that province, to forbid likewise the import of Indian opium into that province—entry into Canton and Shanghai, which are the chief consumers of the Indian drug, being continued meanwhile. The agreement means the extinction of the opium trade within at most two years, or even earlier."

It will be seen from the above that importation of opium from India is to cease as soon as the poppy is no longer

grown in China, and meanwhile the duty on the imported drug is to be trebled, while the stocks held in bond are to be disposed of without a time-limit. Judging from the terms of the above agreement, China has evidently been able to convince the British Government that it has reduced the area under the poppy, but on this point many conflicting statements have been made. The report of Sir A. Hosie upon the cultivation in Szechuan, the largest of all the opium-growing provinces, will be instructive on this point, and China ("The Times" correspondent states) awaits the publication of this document with confidence. The chief difficulty in the above agreement is the question of the disposal of the accumulated stock in the treaty ports, amounting to some 20,000 chests. This opium is valued at about four millions sterling, and has been bought from the Indian Government under treaty rights. The proposal now is that these 20,000 chests are to be sold without a time-limit, which of course means that opium merchants will not force their stocks on the market, as would have been the case under the original proposals, which were to the effect that this stock had to be sold before the new agreement came into operation.

An Epidemic among Dogs.

A correspondent of "The Times" (April 14, p. 11) states that during the past few weeks there have been alarming accounts of an unusual and fatal epizootic in dogs and cats, which, he states, is an old and well-known complaint called the Stuttgart dog epizootic, otherwise contagious gastro-enteritis, ulcerative stomatitis, or canine influenza. He adds:

"The disease occurs at all times of the year, but is generally observable during wet or damp weather, rarely or ever during intense cold or in hot dry weather. Indeed, the same remark applies to other diseases from which dogs suffer, the susceptibility of the canine constitution to climatic influences being very marked. It may, like ordinary distemper, attack the same animal more than once. It may run a very short course; sometimes its operation is slow, being prolonged over several weeks. This, however, varies in duration, again like ordinary distemper—mild, rapid, acute, and chronic. It does not appear to be contagious in the ordinary sense, because healthy dogs living in contact with the diseased ones do not often contract it."

In some respects the disease resembles distemper, but there are others in which it is quite different, and the correspondent suggests that the Commission on distemper which was appointed some time ago by the Board of Agriculture might hasten the report on the investigations which it has been making.

Liquor Ferri Perchloridi.

Mr. A. Stayt Dutton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Oxford, writes to the "Medical Press and Circular" of April 5, complaining that since the beginning of 1908 he has become aware of a difference in the composition of liquor ferri perchloridi, B.P., which, in his opinion, has greatly reduced its efficacy. He states—

(1) That whereas hitherto there was always a thick precipitate on adding liquor arsenicalis—for instance, 30 drops—to a drachm of the solution of the perchloride of iron, since the period mentioned no reaction has been obtainable. This occurrence indicated no clinical defect in either drug, and when a combination of them was required, by dispensing in the order liquor ferri perchloridi, water, and liquor arsenicalis, no visible reaction took place. (2) The addition of a drachm of the preparation to 6 oz. of water produces a mixture of a much lighter colour than was formerly the case. (3) Its clinical action is less effective.

Mr. Dutton continues: "One change that appears to have taken place is, that it is *more acid* in character, and certain results, among which is the following, indicate such

an event. On mixing a solution of liquor ferri perchloridi with 6 oz. of water, and then adding a drachm of dilute nitro-hydrochloric acid, the colour is entirely removed from the iron, and the mixture causes no blackening of the faeces." Mr. Dutton uses the last property as a guide to the efficacy of iron preparations.

Bleached Flour.

The report on this subject by Dr. Hamill, of the Local Government Board, London, has created widespread interest. We referred to it last week, and to Dr. G. W. Monier-Williams' experiments, the results of which deserve fuller reference. He has found that the action of air containing nitrogen peroxide upon flour, in quantities up to 300 c.c. of nitrogen peroxide to 1 kilogram of flour, is as follows:

I. The golden-yellow tint of the flour is destroyed. Immediately after bleaching no difference in tint due to excess of the bleaching-agent could be observed with Lovibond's tintometer, but on keeping for several days the more highly bleached samples became decidedly yellow, while those treated with 50 to 100 c.c. of nitrogen peroxide per kilogram became still whiter, the maximum of bleaching effect being attained within these limits.

II. The amount of nitrous acid or nitrites present in a freshly bleached flour is approximately proportional to the amount of nitrogen peroxide employed, and corresponds to about 30 per cent. of the total nitrogen absorbed, rising to 40 per cent. in the more highly-bleached samples. After the lapse of several days, the proportion of nitrites present decreases considerably in the higher concentrations, but remains very nearly the same in the more slightly-bleached samples.

III. Approximately 60 per cent. of the total nitrogen introduced as nitrogen peroxide into the flour during bleaching can be recovered as ammonia a short time after bleaching by reducing the aqueous extract of the flour with a copper-zinc couple, and may be assumed to be present in the flour as nitric and nitrous acids or as nitrates and nitrites. After keeping the bleached flour for some days the amount of nitric acid extracted with cold water decreases. Experiments with pure glutenin and gliadin indicated that in certain circumstances nitric acid may be withdrawn from solution or "absorbed" by these proteins.

IV. In highly-bleached flour a considerable increase in the amounts of soluble proteins and soluble carbohydrates takes place. If 1 kilogram of flour is bleached with 300 c.c. of nitrogen peroxide, the amount of soluble nitrogen is doubled. This appears to be due almost entirely to the solubility of gliadin in nitric acid of certain concentrations. The simultaneous increase of soluble carbohydrates would seem to point to an intimate relationship between the gliadin and certain carbohydrates in flour.

V. If highly-bleached flour is allowed to stand for some time after bleaching, the oil undergoes very considerable alteration and acquires the characteristics of an oxidised oil. About 6 to 7 per cent. of the nitrogen introduced as nitrogen peroxide during bleaching is absorbed by the oil.

VI. The absorption of nitrogen peroxide by flour does not appear to be accompanied by the production of free nitrogen, nor was any evidence obtained of the formation of diazomounds.

VII. Sodium nitrite was found to exert no inhibitory action on the digestion of soluble starch by saliva, but the rate of digestion was greatly retarded if the starch had been previously treated with nitrogen-peroxide gas. Bleaching was found to exercise an inhibitory effect on the salivary digestion of flour.

These results confirm in the main experiments in the United States (see *C. & D.*, April 8, index folio 512), but it is considered that the heat of the oven will decompose any physiologically active combination of nitrogen in the flour.

PRINTERS' INK.—The English edition of "Printers' Ink" is being changed from a weekly to a monthly, beginning with April. A specimen copy has been submitted to us, and it is in every respect a "journal for serious advertisers."

POISON SCHEDULE AND DISCOUNT CIRCLE.—We have prepared card (5½×3½ in.), with eyelet for hanging up in Pharmacy Store, showing the Poison Schedule, Part I. and Part II., on the front, and the Discount Circle which appeared in the Winter Issue (p. 153) on the back. Our publisher is selling the card at 2d., a copy, post free in the United Kingdom.

Cucurbitaceous Plants.

At the recent meeting of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference in Sydney, N.S.W., a paper was read which had been submitted to the Conference by Dr. F. B. Power, of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, London. It was read by deputy, the following being an abstract of the paper and the discussion.

MUCH confusion evidently exists in literature as to the causes of the medicinal properties of these plants. To clear this up an extensive series of experiments was undertaken.

ELATERIUM.—The material used was the best English elaterium. By suitable treatment a crystallised product was obtained, and this was subjected to fractional crystallisation, when it was found that the samples consisted of 60 to 80 per cent. of non-purgative substance which is levorotatory, and 20 to 40 per cent. of a substance of apparently the same percentage composition, but dextrorotatory, and strongly purgative. Crystallised elaterin of commerce was found to be similarly variable in composition and action. The levorotatory compound has been named alpha elaterin, and the dextro compound beta elaterin. Probably the remedy is too potent for general use, but as the result of the present investigation it can probably be standardised.

COLOCYNTH is recognised in all the Pharmacopœias, but little definite is known as to the cause of its purgative action, and conflicting results have been obtained in recent years. In another plant (which is also to be found native in many parts of Australia) *Cucumis trigonus* substances have been obtained, which resemble those present in colocynth, but all previous investigations have evidently been made on compounds which were indefinite mixtures. A complete examination of Turkish colocynth shows that the pulp made up 24.5 per cent. of the whole fruit. From an alcoholic extract, besides numerous other compounds, some alpha elaterin was obtained and a little alkaloid, which has not yet been obtained in sufficient quantities for a complete examination. The ether and chloroform extracts of the resin are markedly purgative. In the seed, which forms 75.5 per cent. of the fruit, a fatty oil was obtained, a little enzyme, and traces of alkaloidal substances. The net result of the investigation is that the so-called principles to which had been ascribed the medicinal action of the colocynth are not homogeneous bodies. The purgative action is due to the presence of two compounds—one the alkaloidal compound previously mentioned, and the other a body found in ether and chloroform extracts of the resin.

PUMPKIN-SEED is largely used in the United States as a remedy for tapeworm. A fatty oil obtained from it (19 per cent.) and a resin (0.5 per cent. of the seed) were administered to dogs in large doses (15 grains), but had no effect in the removal of tapeworm. Any value for this purpose must therefore be ascribed to mechanical action, and the seeds are not worthy of a place in a Pharmacopœia.

WATER-MELON SEED is alleged to have diuretic properties and oil. An oil (19 per cent. of the seed) and resin (0.3 per cent.) obtained from the seeds were found to have no effect on a dog, even when given in doses of 1 gram.

In a discussion which followed Mr. Bailey said elaterium forty years ago was largely used, but now had fallen into oblivion, evidently because it is unreliable. He had never dispensed it. The compound colocynth pill is one of the best in the Pharmacopœia, but of late years it has been exceedingly uncertain in its action.

Mr. Cowley said the paper is a great addition to knowledge. Nine-tenths of the drugs in the Pharmacopœia and in text-books are of very little service. Elaterin, although made according to the improved knowledge, is not likely to hold a place in the Pharmacopœia. One Liverpool doctor used to order enormous doses of elaterin in cases of dropsy, but he was so startled by the results in some cases that he stopped its use entirely.

Mr. Mackay thought it would be found that elaterin exists in small quantities in all cucurbitaceous plants. It is possible that combinations of enzymes and glucosides which are easily destroyed by heat might be the cause of the variability in these products.

New German Pharmacopoeia.

Organic Materia Medica.

Gelatina Alba.—The aqueous solution 1+99 solidifies to a jelly on cooling (B.P. 1:50). Ash-limit 2 per cent. The residue obtained by incinerating 10 grams of white gelatin is dissolved in 3 c.c. dilute hydrochloric acid; no blue coloration should occur on adding an excess of solution of ammonia (copper salts). The following test for the presence of sulphurous acid is included: 5 grams of gelatin is immersed in 30 c.c. of water in a wide-necked flask of 150-c.c. capacity; solution is then effected by gently warming on the water-bath. Add 5 grams of phosphoric acid (25 per cent.) and close the flask loosely with a cork to which a strip of moistened potassium iodate-starch paper* has been attached on the lower end. The contents of the flask are warmed on the water-bath, shaking cautiously. Within a quarter of an hour no blue coloration of the paper should occur.

Gossypium Depuratum.—Ash-limit 0.3 per cent. (B.P. 1 per cent.).

Gummi Arabicum.—Ten c.c. of an aqueous solution of gum acacia (1+9) should not be coloured blue or wine-red on the addition of 1 drop of N/10 solution of iodine, nor should a coloration occur on heating this solution and adding a second drop of N/10 iodine. Ash-limit 5 per cent. (B.P. 4 per cent.).

Gutti.—Cambogia. Ash-limit 1 per cent. (B.P. 3 per cent.).

Lignum Quassiae.—The wood of the trunk and branches of *Picrasma exelsa*, Planchon, and of *Quassia amara*, Linné.

Lignum Sassafras.—The wood of the root only.

Myrrha.—Should yield at the most 65 per cent. residue (dried at 100° C.) on extraction with boiling alcohol. Ash-limit 7 per cent.

Opium.—Opium dried at 60° should contain at least 12 per cent. of morphine. Asia Minor variety from *Papaver somniferum* alone official. Assay for morphine: 7 grams of moderately fine powdered opium is rubbed down with 7 grams of water and the mixture washed into a flask; the weight is brought up to 63 grams by the addition of water, and then the whole is left for one hour, shaking frequently. It is now filtered through a dry filter of 10 cm. diameter. To 42 grams of the filtrate (=4.88 grams of opium) add 2 c.c. of a mixture of 17 grams of solution of ammonia and 83 grams of water; filter immediately. To 36 grams of the filtrate (=4 grams of opium) add 10 c.c. of acetic ether and 5 c.c. of the above aqueous mixture of solution of ammonia. Close the flask, shake for ten minutes, then add 20 c.c. of acetic ether, and allow to stand for a quarter of an hour, shaking occasionally. As far as possible the whole of the acetic-ether layer is filtered through a filter of 8 cm. diameter; 10 c.c. of acetic ether is added to the aqueous liquid in the flask, and the acetic-ether layer is brought on to the filter. The aqueous solution is then filtered through the same filter, without paying any attention to the crystals remaining on the wall of the flask. The flask and the filter are washed three separate times with 5 c.c. of water saturated with ether. After allowing the flask and the filter to run empty, both are dried at 100°; the morphine crystals are then dissolved in 25 c.c. of N/10 HCl, the solution transferred to a graduated cylinder of 100-c.c. capacity, filter, flask, and stopper are carefully washed with water, and the volume of the solution brought up to 100 c.c. Fifty c.c. of the latter (=2 grams of opium) is measured off into a bottle of white glass of a capacity of 200 c.c., and 50 c.c. of water is added, as well as sufficient ether to form a layer of about 1 cm. in depth. The solution, after the addition of 10 drops of iodeosin solution, is triturated with N/10 KOH until the aqueous layer assumes a pale red colour. This should require at the most 4.1 c.c. (1 c.c. of N/10 HCl corresponds to 0.02852 gram of morphine).

This opium may only be employed in the preparation of opium galenicals; as an ingredient in prescriptions it is only permissible to use

Opium Pulveratum, which contains exactly 10 per cent. of morphine, and is prepared by diluting the above opium with rice starch.

Podophyllum.—"Obtained from the alcoholic extract of the subterraneous parts of *Podophyllum peltatum*, Linné, by precipitation with water." Ash-limit 0.5 per cent.

Radix Gentianae.—The quickly dried roots and rhizomes of different varieties of *Gentiana*, especially *G. lutea*, also *G. pannonica*, Scopoli, *G. purpurca*, Linné, and *G. punctata*, Linné.

* Filter-paper steeped in a solution of 0.1 gram potassium iodate (KIO₃) and 1 gram of soluble starch in 100 c.c. of water.

Radix Ipecacuanhæ.—The dried root of *Uragoga ipecacuanha* (Willdenow), Baillon. Contains at least 1.99 per cent. of alkaloids calculated as emetine (C₂₀H₂₁O₄N₃, molecular weight 496.37). Examined under the microscope, it presents small round starch-granules, either single or at the most in compounds of 7 grains; the diameter of the single granules should not exceed 14 μ in the bark, or 10 μ in the wood. It is assayed in the same way as indicated under cort. cinchonæ, using a mixture of ether and chloroform as the extractive agent. One c.c. of N/10 HCl=0.02482 gram of alkaloids, using hæmatoxylin as indicator.

Radix Ratanhiæ.—Only the root of *Krameria Triandra*, Ruiz and Pavon, is official.

Radix Sarsaparillæ.—Honduras sarsaparilla is official.

Radix Senegæ.—The cells of the bark, which contain no sclerenchyma, contain drops of oil. Starch and crystals of calcium oxalate are not present.

Radix Valerianæ.—In the parenchymatous cells starch is present in single or compound granules, up to 20 μ in size.

Rhizoma Hydrastis.—To contain at least 2.5 per cent. hydrastine, assayed as follows (gravimetric): Six grams of medium powdered hydrastis rhizome is mixed with 60 grams of ether and 10 c.c. of solution of ammonia, and the mixture allowed to stand for three hours, shaking frequently. On clearing, 40 grams of the ethereal layer (=4 grams hydrastis) is filtered off and the ether distilled. The residue is warmed with 10 c.c. of dilute hydrochloric acid (1+99), the solution filtered, through a filter moistened with water, into a separator; the flask is rinsed three separate times with 5 c.c. of the dilute hydrochloric acid; the filter is then washed with water. The collected solutions in the separator are well mixed with 40 c.c. of ether; then add solution of ammonia in excess and shake vigorously for two minutes. The aqueous solution is now poured off, and 30 c.c. of the ethereal layer (=3 grams of hydrastis) is measured off; the ether is evaporated and the residue dried at 100° to constant weight, which should be 0.075 gram.

Rhizoma Rhei.—The orange-yellow powdered drug is distinguished by the remains of parenchyma, the small starch-granules (10 to 17 μ), and the large clusters of calcium oxalate of over 100 μ. Sclerenchyma and yellow clumps of starch (curcuma) should not be present. Rhubarb-root should yield at least 35 per cent. extract on extraction with a mixture of equal parts of water and alcohol for twenty-four hours. Ash-limit 12 per cent.

Rhizoma Zingiberis.—Not scraped. Ash-limit 7 per cent.

Secale Cornutum.—To be exsiccated over calcium oxide and not kept over one year. It is forbidden to stock powdered ergot.

Semen Sinapis, of *Brassica nigra*, should yield 0.7 per cent. of oil of mustard. Five grams of powdered mustard is moistened with 100 c.c. of water of 20° to 25° and allowed to stand for two hours, shaking frequently. Add 20 c.c. of alcohol and 2 c.c. of olive oil and distil. The first 40 to 50 c.c. is collected in a measuring-flask of 100 c.c. capacity containing 10 c.c. of solution of ammonia. The rest of the process is the same as for ol. sinapis.

Semen Strychni.—*Nux vomica* should contain at least 2.5 per cent. of alkaloids calculated as strychnine and brucine, of an average molecular weight of 364. Ash-limit 3 per cent. The assay-process resembles that described under cort. cinchon. One c.c. of N/100 HCl=0.00364 gram of the alkaloidal mixture, using iodeosin as indicator.

Tragacantha.—Ash-limit 3.5 per cent. The powder should be prepared from the drug dried at a temperature not exceeding 50°.

Tubera Jalapæ.—Should yield at least 10 per cent. of resin on extraction with alcohol for twenty-four hours at 30° and washing the residue with warm water until the latter appears colourless, then drying on the water-bath. Ash-limit 6.5 per cent.

AMYGDALINA EUCALYPTUS OIL.—On several occasions we have referred to the fact that this oil is being extensively used at Broken Hill, New South Wales, in the extraction of copper. We now understand that the demand is such that distilleries are seeking fresh supplies of phellandrene-yielding oils.

A PERSONAL WEIGHING-MACHINE is useful for collecting stray coppers from customers who may be waiting for a prescription to be filled. The other day a caller at a pharmacy was overjoyed to discover that one of these machines really required no penny to set the mechanism in motion. He experimented with the thing, weighing himself with and without his overcoat, and then without his hat, departing well satisfied. So was the chemist. He added the requisite coppers to the price of the prescription.

Cancrum Oris.

CANCNUM ORIS, noma, or gangrenous stomatitis is a rapidly spreading, destructive ulcerative inflammation of the mouth. Fortunately it is of rare occurrence. The disease begins usually on the mucous membrane of the gum or cheek or at the angle of the mouth. The cheek is the most frequent position, and the disease spreads rapidly, destroying both hard and soft tissues. It always occurs in children during infancy or between the ages of two and eight years, and 90 per cent. of the cases terminate fatally. It is said to be more common in girls than in boys. The bacterial cause of this disease is unknown, but many writers attribute it to a bacillus, and while gangrene has been produced in rabbits by the injection of such a bacillus very little definite information is obtainable. The predisposing causes are those factors which produce a lowering of the vital resistance during infancy or early childhood, such as unhygienic surroundings and poor nourishment. It is sometimes seen after one of the exanthematous fevers, measles being the commonest, the others being small-pox, scarlet and typhoid, also following on whooping-cough, broncho-pneumonia, etc.

The first symptoms of gangrene of the mouth are painless, and even during the whole illness the patient may have but little pain. Upon examination the cheek is hard, shiny, and very swollen, with a dark-red spot showing in the centre, and this turns blue and finally black, ending in perforation of the cheek as the disease progresses. Inside the mouth an ashy-grey ulcer may be seen upon the mucous membrane, corresponding to the dark spot on the cheek, which soon turns dark and leaves a coal-black slough. The surrounding parts on the outer side of the cheek may be oedematous, and the spot is sometimes preceded by a phlycten filled with sanguineous fluid. The ulceration and sloughing causes perforation, and in severe forms spreads very rapidly, but, although as a rule confined to the cheek, it may attack the nose, eyelids, ears, chin, and neck. In the mouth the tongue and gum may be affected, with loss of teeth, exposure, and necrosis of the jaw-bones. The saliva escapes through the perforation, and has a marked foetid odour, while the breath is very offensive. The temperature is usually subnormal or slightly elevated, but may rise considerably if there are any complications. The appetite is good or entirely absent, thirst is intense, pulse weak and frequent. The strength of the child varies; in most cases it becomes exhausted, delirious, and death occurs either from exhaustion, blood-poisoning, or septic infection of the lungs. In other cases the child may be strong enough to sit up and play in bed. The duration of the disease is uncertain, and the prognosis as shown above is very bad.

The treatment consists in a radical operation either by means of the cautery or free excision of the gangrenous portion of the cheek, followed by a thorough treatment with antiseptics. The patient's strength has also to be supported by good nourishment in any way that will help. An early diagnosis of the disease always gives more hope of recovery, and Dr. Casanet, of Madrid, reports several cases successfully treated with methylene blue. His treatment consists of frequent irrigations with potassium permanganate ($\frac{1}{2}$ in 1,000), alternated with potassium chlorate (4 in 100) and applications of a solution of methylene blue (2 in 100) every two hours. In general treatment with the above he gave quinine internally every two hours, injection of 200 grams of artificial serum, and a lacteal régime. With this treatment he found great improvement and continued it, with the exception of the potassium permanganate, for four days. Summing up his conclusions on this treatment he says: Methylene blue should be used in all cases of cancrum oris. It acts very rapidly, which may be due to its power of penetrating the tissues beyond the diseased area. It does not cause loss of tissue and is innocuous. It arrests the disease in from four to six days; the sooner the treatment is started, the earlier the recovery.

Although the number of cases Dr. Casanet has treated in this way is small, still his results have been excellent, and it is to be hoped more will be done in this direction and thus prevent the great destruction of tissue and frightful

disfigurement and deformity of the faces of those who are fortunate to recover. Ulcerative stomatitis might be mistaken for cancrum oris, but it does not cause a nucleus of induration in the cheek. As a rule, it begins on the gum and is quickly amenable to potassium-chlorate treatment.

CHEMISTS' WINDOWS.

New ideas for dressing windows are invited. Photographs of windows sent to the Editor for reproduction should be accompanied by notes on how the displays were arranged.



A Catch-phrase Window.

MESSRS. BENSONS, chemists, 68 Dalton Road, Barrow-in-Furness, tell us that their "catch-phrase" window-display outlined below created a block in the street on the first day, and proved to be a powerful attraction during the three weeks it lasted. The window was covered with posters bearing the following wording:

THE LATEST CATCH-PHRASE.

YOU ARE LIKE
OUR
SUSIE!
LOOKING AT IT
IN THIS LIGHT.
SHE SWEARS
B. L. . . .

YOU ARE LIKE
OUR
FREDDIE!
LOOKING AT IT
IN THIS LIGHT.
HE SWEARS
B. O. . .

On looking through the cut-away portion of the eye, the spectator found the solution to the phrases in the small displays of Lemco and Oxo, with cups and saucers, behind the posters. The Oxo display in one-half of the window is portrayed above. The bright colours, red, white, and gold, cannot, unfortunately, be reproduced. When lit up by electric light at night the "eye" was very prominent, as it could be seen some fifty yards up the street. A similar display for "Lemco" occupied the other half of the interior of the window. The three objects of the display were to arouse curiosity, to induce passers-by to make "Oxo" and "Lemco" the latest catch-phrases by telling them what Freddie and Susie swear by, and to drive the reason why forcibly home by an effective display taken in at a glance. The window display secured a 2^d prize in recent Oxo window-dressing competition.

CAMPBOR-REFINERS' PROTEST.—The Asahi Camphor Co., Ltd., the Kobe Camphor-Refining Co., Ltd., and Rucus & Co., of Kobe, have sent representatives to the Home Minister to plead that the domestic camphor merchants cannot withstand the foreign competition owing to the fact that the price of camphor to them is much higher than that which is sold to foreign houses by the Monopoly Office of Formosa. They request that the price be reduced to that of the foreign firms.

VETERINARY NOTES.

By a M.R.C.V.S.

Salt as a Thirst-producer.

It has been stated that it is possible to water milk indirectly either by feeding cows on watery food or by causing them to drink water in large quantities or immediately before being milked. Experiments conducted at the Midland Agricultural and Dairy College with a view to testing this assertion were made with the addition of salt. The result shows that periodical doses of common salt administered to cows, even to the extent of purging them, do not necessarily cause them to consume excessive quantities of water, and that the amount of water consumed by cows has no direct bearing on the composition of their milk-yield.

Hydrocyanic Acid in Linseed Cake.

THE occurrence of cyanogenetic glucosides in linseed has been long known, and the matter becomes of interest to cattle-feeders when the amount present is more than the merest trace. Dr. G. D. Lander, of the Royal Veterinary College, London, in the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture," tells of feeding experiments made on sheep and a heifer with cake containing 0.025 per cent. of available hydrocyanic acid without poisoning. The equivalent amount of potassium cyanide also produced no obvious results. Next 15 grains of hydrocyanic acid was administered, followed by the same amount next day. No results followed, but when 30 grains was administered it proved fatal within two hours. From these observations it may be concluded that cake such as that used is harmless. Variation due to idiosyncrasy is possible, and a cake of 0.05 per cent. would in an 8-lb. feed give 28 grains of hydrocyanic acid equal to a 4-lb. feed of Java beans showing 0.1 per cent. of acid.

Colds in Poultry.

SIMPLE COLDS in poultry are very frequent, but, fortunately, if treated in time, are usually cured in a few days by giving teaspoonful doses of glycerin, which is almost a specific in these cases. Should the disease be neglected or overlooked, it may develop into very serious complications of the throat, lungs, etc. In the throat it may cause diphtheritic croup, formation of pus or ulcers, etc., and in the lungs, pneumonia, pleurisy, etc., and be the first and premonitory cause of consumption. A good specific in the throat-complaints is glycerin and roup-mixture (see "Veterinary Counter-practice," p. 366), and when in the chest, extract of malt and cod-liver oil, or even the gruel of boiled linseed with the glycerin usually proves beneficial. It is advisable to warm the mixture, as it is easier given and adds to its curative effect. Care must be taken in preventing too sudden changes of temperature, neither too high nor low. The air of the fowl-house should be kept dry.

Sore Legs in Young Pigs.

It is quite common for young pigs, up to five or six months old, to go wrong on their legs; they swell from the knee downwards and invariably the forelegs are worst. This is commonly named cramp, but practically it is rheumatic gout. The trouble generally arises from an attempt to force the young pigs too quickly, and feeding on food too rich and nourishing, and not giving any opportunity to take sufficient exercise. The symptoms vary according to the extent of the muscles affected: elevation of temperature and extreme tenderness of the parts are the most prominent symptoms. Very little can be done medicinally, and animals so affected are generally slaughtered, owing to the rapid loss of flesh. When treatment is undertaken the bowels should be opened. Glauber's salts are easily mixed with the food and readily taken, and have a quick action. One or two tablespoonfuls of cod-liver oil should be given daily and the parts rubbed with equal parts olive oil and turpentine; an occasional dose of pot. bicarb. can be given. The animal should be exercised for a few minutes several times daily. It should have dry litter and be kept off damp and cold floors. Green food and food not of a too heating character are advisable. Boiled food is preferable, but should not be of an acid nature.

PRESCRIPTION PROBLEM.

NOTWITHSTANDING the limited time allowance which was fixed for the receipt of solutions to the problem in prescription reading, which appeared in the Coloured Supplement, March 18, the response was good. The prescription which formed the subject of the exercise presented several interesting features. The fluid extract of *Artemisia vulgaris* (mugwort) is an unusual ingredient, and the same may be said of liq. toddalæ conc. and usquebagh, although the former is official in the Indian and Colonial Addendum of the British Pharmacopœia. Usquebagh is not often met with in prescriptions, but it refers to the "Aqua vitæ Hibernorum sive Usquebagh" of the London Pharmacopœia, 1677. We refer to this item in detail on p. 576. The inverted triangle—the alchemical sign for water—proved a stumbling-block for a few competitors. The following is the correct transcription of the exercise:

Sodii Bicarb. ʒj
Ext. Artem. Vulg. liq.
Liq. Toddalæ Conc.
Usquebagh
Sp. Ammon. Ar. aa mxxv
Aq. Rosæ ad ʒj
M ft mist. Signe ʒj c
ʒss suc. lim. t. in die

Correct answers were received within the time specified from Mr. Geo. A. H. Shelley, c/o Cooper & Co., 20 Royal Exchange, London, E.C., and Mr. H. Smart, 52 High Street, Littlehampton, and to them we are sending copies of "The Chemists' Medical Dictionary."

The following is the next exercise, the solution to which should be sent in on postcards not later than April 30:

Pro. rect 37
Ly. an acet 314
m d l d 31
Sp. amon 31
C
D. 4 an

AT THE COUNTER.

"INVALID WHISKY" was asked for in a Dundee chemist's shop recently. It was on a Sunday, of course, and the customer had an "awfie sair heid."

A TRIO of "TEASERS" are represented by the following counter orders: 1d. of Lava salts; 3d. de Cockshon of Aleases; 3d. Tincture of Ammonia Devacrum. The first is Glauber's salt, but the others are more readily interpreted.

REAL CONVERSATION.—Customer: "A pennyworth of perforated chalk, please." Chemist: "Camphorated chalk. Is it for the teeth?" Customer: "Yes; but I was told to ask for perforated chalk." Chemist ??? (Creta præcip. supplied, and label slightly smudged.)

THE CRYPTIC COUNTER ORDER reproduced in our "At the Counter" column last week (index folio 542) was filled as follows:

2 pennyworth chamomile-flowers	...	2
1 box seidlitz-powders	...	6
2 Steedman's powders...	...	2½
1 jar vaseline	...	2
Quarter milk of sulphur	...	2½

The above were the articles required.

Practical Notes and Formulae.

Waterproofing Fabric.

M. A. BALLAND, one of the French Government Chemists, relates in one of the service papers the various experiments made by the War Department with a view to rendering fabrics waterproof but not airtight. Among the substances employed were rubber, gelatin, lac, boiled oil, castor-oil soap, various aluminium salts, and solid hydrocarbons, but none of these gave satisfactory results. On the suggestion of the author of the paper the committee which had charge of the matter successfully used aluminium acetate solution which is employed as a mordant in dyeing the fabric. The strength ultimately adopted was a dilution of one litre of aluminium acetate solution (sp. gr. 1.050) with 40 litres of water. The cloth is placed in this solution for 24 hours, taken out and dried in the shade. A company of soldiers were clothing waterproofed in this manner for three winter months and the success was such that the method is being tried on a larger scale.

Casein Cement.

THE following recipes are from the "Revue de Chimie Industrielle":

I.

Dry casein	...	...	100 parts
Borax	...	...	2 parts
Solution of ammonia	...	...	a sufficiency
Water	...	...	600 to 800 parts

Mix the casein, borax, and water and add sufficient ammonia to give an alkaline reaction. Heat the mixture at the boiling-point for half an hour with constant stirring, keeping it alkaline by the addition of ammonia.

When mixed with an equal part of liquid starch a splendid adhesive is obtained. The liquid starch is prepared by the action of dilute alkalis on starch.

II.

Casein in powder	...	...	200 grams
Cold water	...	...	1 litre
Solution of ammonia	...	...	40 grams

Mix the casein with water and add the ammonia.

The casein is simply suspended and is preserved by the addition of carbolic acid or mercury perchloride. After applying to the broken parts a hot iron is passed over the cement or the article is heated in a stove. Milk of lime (200 grams) can be used instead of ammonia in preparing the cement, but heat is not then of use in promoting setting.

Surgeon's Pumice Soap.

MR. J. K. THUM, in the "American Journal of Pharmacy," gives the following formula for a pumice or grit soap for removing dirt and foreign matters from the hands of operating surgeons:

Cottonseed oil	...	...	500 c.c.
Stearic acid	...	...	500 grams
Sodium hydroxide	...	...	150 grams
Alcohol	...	...	150 c.c.
Sodium chloride (20-per-cent. solution)	...	...	a sufficiency
Distilled water	...	...	a sufficiency
Powdered pumice	...	...	300 grams

Heat the cottonseed oil and stearic acid until the acid is completely dissolved. Then add the sodium hydroxide, dissolved in a litre of distilled water, and heat for fifteen minutes with constant stirring. Next add the alcohol and stir until saponification is effected, which will be apparent in a few minutes by the homogeneous appearance of the mixture. Then add one litre of 20-per-cent. solution of sodium chloride and stir vigorously. Allow to stand until the soap is hardened; the alkaline liquid which remains at the bottom of the container is then drained out by punching a hole in the soapy mass on one side. The soap is then washed two or three times with distilled water, melted, and while still on the fire the powdered pumice is added and the whole thoroughly incorporated. The hot soap is then poured into suitable moulds, and allowed to remain for twenty-four hours to set.

TRADE NOTES.

A NEW CATARRH REMEDY.—We have had many things from the East in the way of medicinal proprietaries, and the latest is "Lu-Ku," a remedy for catarrh, particulars of which may be obtained from the "Lu-Ku" Co., Arcade Buildings, Burton-on-Trent.

PRICE LIST.—Messrs. Knoll & Co., 8 Harp Lane, London, E.C., have issued a chemists' price list, which states shortly the chemical composition, uses, doses, size of package, retail and trade prices of the firm's special preparations. It is a useful reference list for dispensers. The firm also publish a 20-page booklet regarding their specialities, which is suitable for distribution to medical men, as it gives details of interest to prescribers. A supply of these booklets will be sent to any C. & D. subscriber on request.

NEW PRICE LIST.—Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., Bethnal Green, London, E., have issued a revised edition of their general price list, which is one of the most complete and at the same time most interesting lists in the drug-trade. It is divided into six sections, as follows: (1) Drugs, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. (2) Fine drugs and pharmaceuticals. (3) "Allenburys" specialities. (4) Packed drugs, toilet preparations, and



toilet soaps. (5) Chemists' and medical sundries. (6) Information of general interest, such as the regulations for the sale of poisons, antidotes for poisons, and the report of the company's laboratory. Sections 4 and 5 are condensed lists, complete catalogues of these sections being published separately. By means of thumb indices it is easy to refer to any particular section or class of goods. Some excellent photographic illustrations of the various departments of the works are inserted throughout the book. The list is of a larger size than its predecessors, and those chemists who have not received a copy should apply for one without delay to the above address.

NEW BOOKS.

Brandis, Dietrich. *Indian Trees: An Account of Trees, Shrubs, Woody Climbers, Bamboos, and Palms, Indigenous or Commonly Cultivated in the British Indian Empire.* 3rd impres. 10½ x 6. Pp. 800. 16s. net. (Constable.)

Cables, H. A. *Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases.* 8vo. 10s. 6d. net. (Keener.)

Hartridge, G. *Refraction of the Eye.* 15th edit. 7½ x 4½. Pp. 288. 5s. net. (Churchill.)

Martin, G. *Triumphs and Wonders of Modern Chemistry.* 8 x 5. Pp. 358. 7s. 6d. net. (Low, Marston & Co.) [This is a popular treatise on modern chemistry and its marvels, written in non-technical language for general readers and students.]

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS, LTD., have opened a branch at Carnarvon.

MR. H. CHARD, chemist and druggist, is opening a pharmacy at 26 Westgate Street, Ipswich.

THE ROOD END DRUG-STORES have opened at 22 Rood End Road, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

TAYLOR'S DRUG CO., LTD., have opened premises at South Shore, Blackpool, making the second branch in this locality.

MR. W. OSWAL DAVIES, chemist and druggist, 15 Arcade, Pontypridd, is opening a pharmacy in Jones's New Arcade, Pontypridd.

MR. R. M. G. DOWSON, pharmacist, late with Mr. W. S. Thompson, chemist, Halifax, has purchased the business of Mr. G. Milligan, chemist and druggist, at 555 Rochdale Road, Manchester.

MESSRS. JONES BROS., chemists, 25 Sea View Road, Liscard, Cheshire, have taken another shop, now in course of erection, at the corner of Malpas Road and Sea View Road, which will be converted into a pharmacy.

MR. JOHN R. MARTEN, English and foreign chemist, 40 London Road, Brighton, intimates that he has relinquished his chemist's business in order to devote the whole of his time to chiropody at 55 Preston Road.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (SOUTHERN), LTD., are altering the premises at 142 High Street, Barnet, in which Mr. James Edwards, chemist and druggist, so long carried on business, which the company recently acquired from him. During the alterations the business is being carried on at No. 122 of the same street.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. A. F. CORFF, Ph.C., has been appointed an overseer of the poor by the Maidstone Town Council.

MR. G. CLARIDGE DRYCE, M.A., Ph.C., Oxford, has just returned from a trip to the West Indies and British Guiana.

MRS. R. LORD GIFFORD, Blackburn, was again chosen as one of the Secretaries of the local Women's Liberal Association.

MR. E. J. MILLARD, F.C.S. (C. J. Hewlett & Son, Ltd.), has been granted the Freedom of the City of London (Fruiters' Company).

MR. W. H. FOWLER, Ph.C., 38 Station Road, Redhill, has been elected Chairman of the Reigate and Redhill Chamber of Commerce.

THE marriage of Mr. H. Lucas, Principal of the South of England College of Pharmacy, took place on Wednesday, April 12, not 20th, as stated in the *C. & D.* last week.

MR. PERCY KNOTT, chemist and druggist, Blackburn Road, Bolton, is candidate for a vacant seat on the local Town Council. Mr. Knott has been a member of the Bolton Board of Guardians for many years.

IN a paragraph regarding Mr. Francis Sutton, F.I.C., in our issue of April 8 (index folio 496) it was stated that Mr. Sutton is in his 89th year. This was a mistake, Mr. Sutton's 80th birthday having occurred on February 19 last.

MR. T. NEVIN has been appointed manager of the New York house of Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. For some time past Mr. Nevin has been manager of the firm's Montreal house, and is succeeded in this position by Mr. J. S. Lang.

MR. ROBERT GLAISTER, Ph.C., 49 Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W., has written and published a 64 pp. 8vo. book entitled "The Mystery of Christ," which is published at 1s. 9d. It is to a large extent a chronological study.

POISONING FATALITIES.

SIXTEEN deaths have been reported from poisoning since Wednesday of last week. Of these six were by misadventure. *Ammonia*.—At Newburgh, Fifeshire, Robert Henderson, watchmaker, was found dead with a jug of ammonia beside him.—Ammonia taken in mistake for medicine caused the death of a Birmingham carpenter named Collett.

Carbolic acid poisoning was responsible for the suicidal death of Hannah Hutchison (54), widow, Egremont, Cheshire.—Mary Jane Booker (52), wife of a Birmingham corn-packer, killed herself with the same poison.—According to Dr. W. H. Wilcox, a corrosive poison, probably carbolic acid, caused the death, at Greenwich, of a ten-days-old child named Norah W. Wenborn. At the inquest it was stated that carbolic acid had been purchased by deceased's sister. The Coroner said that this was another instance showing how easily poisons could be purchased. It amounted almost to a scandal that a girl of fifteen should be able to buy poison enough to kill numbers of people without the slightest restriction. If there were any restrictions they were simply farcical. The jury returned a verdict that the child died from exhaustion following the administration of a corrosive acid (carbolic), but how and by whom it was administered there was not sufficient evidence to show.

Cresolin.—The suicidal death of Elizabeth A. Kirkham (38), at Hornsey, was due to taking four or five ounces of cresolin vapourising-fluid.

Nicotine-poisoning, due to taking tobacco, caused the death of Edelbert Hopper (39), professional golfer, Erith. Dr. Goodridge stated that deceased's stomach contained enough tobacco to kill ten men. A verdict of death from misadventure was returned at the inquest.

Opium-poisoning, according to a Westminster jury, caused the death of Lionel C. G. Sartoris (48), company director, who died shortly after being found unconscious in the Savoy Turkish bath. They found that the drug was self-administered, but that there was not sufficient evidence to show the deceased's intentions. Dr. L. Freyberger deposed that from the quantities of meconic acid and morphine found in the stomach contents deceased must have taken an exceedingly large dose of opium. The dead man had insured himself for 15,000l. a month before his death, a circumstance which the Coroner described as very suspicious.

Oxalic Acid.—Depressed through being out of work, a labourer named John Mahoney, committed suicide at Stratford by drinking oxalic-acid solution.

Poisonous Liniment.—At the inquiry into the death of Rose Hannah Fellows (41) at Birmingham, Dr. Wilkinson, of the General Hospital, deposed that death was due to brouchitis accelerated by some liniment taken by deceased. The liniment contained some turpentine and possibly some ammonia and morphine.

Potassium Cyanide was the suicidal agent used by Percy Knight (29), journalist, Leicester, who poisoned himself on his wedding-day.

Strychnine.—The death by misadventure of Ethel E. Madden (36), at Folkestone, was due to taking strychnine solution instead of peppermint essence. Deceased had been accustomed to helping herself to the latter in the surgery of her brother, Dr. F. Madden. At the inquest the Coroner pointed out the similarity of the bottles containing the poison and the essence.—At Swansea, Harry Whitenall (63), roadman, poisoned himself with vermin-killer. At the inquest Dr. A. Hanson said the cause of death was strychnine-poisoning. Mr. Henry Hugh Parlyb, chemist, 7 Craddock Street, Swansea, said that deceased came to him and said that a gentleman wanted a packet of vermin-killer to kill a dog. Witness, believing him, sold him a packet containing a small quantity of strychnine.

Veronal in accidental overdose caused the death of Henrietta Przebecke (27), at Gower Street, London, W.C. At the inquest Frank Watson, who lived with deceased, said that she had told him that she had taken two veronal-tablets instead of one. The Coroner (Mr. Walter Schröder): Did not two tablets alarm you? Witness: On the bottle it stated, "Two tablets can be taken." Coroner: Did you see on the label that it must be taken "As ordered by a physician"?—I attached no importance to that. Coroner: I am surprised. Dr. Kennard, in the course of his evidence, said it was a great scandal that veronal-tablets could be bought without a doctor's prescription. Dr. Spilsbury said death was due to some form of narcotic-poisoning acting upon a weak heart. The jury, in returning their verdict, expressed the opinion that some restriction should be placed upon the sale of such drugs as veronal.—The death of Thos. A. Fison (59), stockbroker, Hampstead, was also due to an accidental overdose of veronal. At the inquest on April 19 Dr. J. R. Whit said deceased must have taken 50 grains of the drug.

Kind Not Stated.—Irene Ursula Hawkwell (18) died in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, W., from the effects of intentionally taking poison which she obtained from a local chemist.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., April 20.

BUSINESS has not yet been fully resumed on the markets, so that there is little of interest to record, and few changes have occurred. Opium remains very firm and morphine is dearer. Tartaric acid is firmer, and turpentine and ipecacuanha are higher.

Cablegrams.

BERGEN, April 20.—The catch of cod for the whole of Norway now amounts to 33,200,000 against 34,000,000 for the corresponding period of 1909, and the yield of steam refined oil is 23,200 barrels against 28,500 barrels at the same period of last year. The fishing at Lofoten is now closing, and the prospects for Finmarken are fair, but stormy weather prevails. Market is dull at 155s. per barrel c.i.f. terms.

NEW YORK, April 13.—Business in drugs is of a jobbing character. Opium is 15c. per lb. dearer, but quiet at \$5.50 per lb. for druggists'. Short buchu has advanced to 95c. per lb. Peppermint oil in tins is lower at \$2.85. Mexican sarsaparilla has advanced to 11c. Mandrake root is easier at 6c. Jalap is steady at 37c. per lb. Copaiba is easier at 40c. for South American, and at 60c. for Para. Hydrastis is steady at \$3 per lb. [This cable was received too late for last week's issue.]

NEW YORK, April 20.—Business in drugs is moderate. Opium is steady at \$5.50 per lb. Peppermint oil is quiet at \$2.85. Sarsaparilla has advanced to 16c. Jalap is steady at 35c. Cascara sagrada is firm at 8c. Copaiba is firm at 40c. per lb. for Central American, and hydrastis is steady at \$2.20 per lb.

American Drug-market.

New York, April 11.

While fairly active demand is reported in some departments of the New York drug market, trading as a whole shows little improvement over the rather tame conditions which have prevailed since the beginning of the year. The absence of speculation is not conducive to important fluctuations, and few price changes have occurred.

ALOES.—There have been further arrivals of old-crop Curaçao, and under a quiet demand prices are steady at 7c. for prime goods. Cape and Socotrine are held for 8c. and 24c. respectively.

ASAETIDA is in good request, and with the market sparingly supplied prices are firm at \$1.25 to \$1.50.

BUCHU.—Shorts are obtainable at the lower price of 85c. under the influence of weaker primary markets.

CANADA BALSAM is the turn lower at \$4.20 per gal. in barrels as the result of backward demand and competition. Oregon also is in downward tendency at 80c. or less, according to grade and dealer.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Primary markets continue firm, most of last year's peel being reported in the hands of a few dealers. Spot demand is not particularly brisk, however, and prices are only moderately firm at 8c., with 7½c. possible on substantial orders.

COPAIBA.—The stringency has been somewhat relieved by recent arrivals of C. & S. American, but with a good demand in progress prices continue firm at 40c. to 42c. for genuine goods. There have been no receipts of Para for some time, and since most of the local supply is concentrated in a few hands prices are maintained at 60c.

HYDRASTIS has been rather quiet during the interval, and quotations show the wider range of \$2.90 to \$3.10 as to quantity and grade, the outside figure being maintained for high-testing drug.

OPUM is higher at \$5.45 as the result of stronger crop predictions. Prices for morphine sulphate have been advanced to \$3.30 per oz. for bulk.

PODOPHYLLUM-ROOT is quoted at 6c. to 6½c. as to grade and quantity, but with most consuming interests satisfied the spot market is rather dull. Large quantities of last year's fall-dug are still held in southern markets, and 5c. f.o.b. can be done for ton-lots.

PEPPERMINT OIL (AMERICAN).—The principal dealers in both spot and primary markets maintain a firm position, but owing to a falling off in demand and more favourable crop news prices are the turn easier at \$2.90 for bulk. A large portion of last year's oil is said to be still in the hands of a few large distributors in secondary markets, who have been working in unison with primary holders: In anticipation, however, of a substantial crop next fall, the majority of spot dealers have pursued a hand-to-mouth policy. It would appear now that the reported damage to roots, which seemingly justified the flurry a few months ago, had been thoughtlessly exaggerated, later advices indicating a good crop from both old and new plants, with greatly increased acreage.

PERTU BALSAM is in fairly active demand at prices ranging from \$1.55 to \$1.75 as to quality and dealer. There is much competition for the business, and the cheaper lots are regarded with suspicion.

SASSAFRAS-BARK is quoted at 16c. to 18c. per lb. on spot for select, but the market is dull and prices are barely steady. Primary markets offer at 10c. upwards as to grade and quantity.

SARSAPARILLA.—Mexican is dearer at 11c. per lb. as the result of unusual demand and the absence of offerings from initial sources.

Continental Drug and Chemical Markets.

ACETYSALICYLIC ACID.—The few producers have recently increased in number, and it is possible that as a result of increased competition lower prices will prevail.

BALSAM PERTU.—A firmer tendency is noticeable, which is due chiefly to consumers' requirements; from m.15.50 to m.16.50 per kilo. is asked.

CARNAUBA WAX continues extremely quiet. The *Carthage* with some thousand sacks on board has reached the Elbe, and though the bulk of these supplies will be warehoused by the importers owing to the higher cost, smaller quantities can probably be had at lower prices. Spot (Hamburg) is quoted at m.306 to m.308 per 100 kilos. for sandy grey and fatty grey, ex warehouse. The yellow qualities are steady at m.390 to m.520 per 100 kilos., ex warehouse.

CEVADILLA-SEED.—Holders have recently shown some reserve with regard to their stocks, owing to the fact that for some time there have been practically no offers of last year's product; but now it is possible to meet lower offers at from m.110 to m.115 per 100 kilos., while offers on spot (Hamburg) are also more abundant.

ERGOT.—Some sales have taken place in Hamburg at somewhat lower prices, and m.7 per kilo. has been paid for both Russian and Spanish. Offers from producing countries continue scarce, and high prices are asked.

PLATINUM SALTS.—The rising tendency has been noticeable for some time, and a recent change has resulted in quotations of m.2,180 for platinum chloride and m.2,575 for potassium chloroplatinate.

POTASH PRUSSIAN (YELLOW).—At the beginning of the year a firm tendency was observable, and prices were raised slightly. Now the article is in a depressed condition, and is obtainable at m.80 per 100 kilos. in original cases in large quantities.

QUILLIA is steadier. The quotations for goods afloat fluctuate between m.43 and m.45 per 100 kilos. Holders are less exacting where cut goods are concerned, owing to competition.

SFERMACETI has fallen still further, Hamburg quoting m.230 per 100 kilos. in cases. Considerable quantities are in the hands of importers, but the quality is somewhat mixed.

London Markets.

ALOES.—The *Armada Castle* has brought 25 packages for Mossel Bay.

BERGAMOT OIL.—According to a Palermo advice of April 12, it is stated that the fear that the winds of last week had really damaged the bergamot trees and endangered the new crop, caused holders to show an unwillingness to sell, and to raise their pretences. Some business was done at slightly increased prices, and the market is now strong with an inclination to advance; 36 to 38 per cent. is quoted 16s. to 16s. 3d. c.i.f. A further advice, dated April 15, reports a fairly active business, with reserved sellers.

BUCHU are firm, about 20 bales having been sold for export to U.S.A. at up to 3s. 9d. per lb. for short-broad;

and 4s. is now asked. Longs are offered at 1s. 6d. and ovals at from 1s. 10d. to 2s. Five bales have arrived in transit.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Cables from the Pacific Coast quote 40s. per cwt. c.i.f. for new crop.

CINCHONA.—The shipments from Java during the first half of April 1911 amounted to 444,000 Amst. lb., against 698,000 Amst. lb. during the same period of 1910. The auction to be held at Amsterdam on May 4 will consist of 3,900 packages, comprising 7,327 packages Ledgeriana and hybrid, 432 cases, and 1,142 bales Succirubra, making a total of 8,900 packages. The first-hand stock of bark at Amsterdam on April 13 consisted of 22,380 packages, comprising 6,498 packages Government and 15,882 packages private bark, including the first-hand lots to be offered at the above-mentioned auction.

CITRIC ACID.—Both English and foreign are quoted 1s. 3½d. per lb. Demand is retail.

COD-LIVER OIL is quiet, and unchanged at from 155s. to 165s. per barrel c.i.f. terms, the latter price being for high-class brands, but the quotation is somewhat nominal. Our Bergen correspondent writes on April 10 that the Lofoten fishing still continues, but the output is now decreasing there as well as at Sandmore, and the fishing in these districts will probably be closed before Easter. In Finnmarken the fishing has so far yielded a mere trifle, owing to the stormy weather and bait-famine. To-day's report gives the following results for the whole of Norway:

	1938	1909	1910	1911
Catch of cod (millions) ...	32.5	35.1	32.2	31.3
Yield of c.l.o. (hect.) ...	45,500	39,400	27,200	22,000
Liver for "raw" oils (hect.)	10,500	9,900	9,200	5,000

On the market there is very little business doing, and prices have still a declining tendency. Finest non-congealing cod-liver oil could probably be obtained at 160s. per barrel c.i.f. (See cable)

According to cable advices received from Norway the catch and output of cod-liver oil up to April 15, 1911, as compared with 1910, is as follows:

		Catch of Cod.	Livers for Raw Oil (hect.)	Yield of c.l.o. (hect.)
Lofoten ...	1911...	10,000,000	706	7,606
" ...	1910...	13,700,000	1,911	13,318
Whole Country ...	1911...	33,200,000	5,156	23,173
" ...	1910...	34,000,000	9,830	28,458

Most of the winter fisheries are now closed or will be finished very shortly. In Lofoten only half the number of boats are now left, and in Finnmarken the catch was next to nothing owing to heavy gales and scarcity of fish.

COPPER SULPHATE is 5s. firmer at 19l. 15s. per ton for ordinary Liverpool brands for prompt delivery, and at 19l. 10s. for May-June.

CREAM OF TARTAR is firm on the basis of 95s. per cwt. for 98-per-cent. powder, and 93s. for 95 per cent.

ERGOT.—The tendency is firmer, and with little spot stock, holders are asking from 3s. 9d. to 4s. 3d., the latter for fine Spanish.

GAMBOGE.—Seven cases have arrived.

HONEY.—It is probable that English will be scarce this season owing to the prevalence of bee disease in the Southern counties.

IPCACUANHA is fully 2d. to 3d. per lb. higher business having been done in Matto Grosso description at 8s., and nothing appears to be available under 9s. Minas has been sold at 7s. 9d., and Cartagena sells slowly at 8s. per lb.

LEMON OIL.—A Palermo advice of April 8 reports that inquiries have been more frequent from local buyers, and from abroad the demand has been rather stronger. Producers, however, are reluctant to sell at present prices, as they maintain that the prevailing southerly winds have dried up the lemons, causing them to yield little oil. This has been quite sufficient to counterbalance the depressing influence and to give a better tendency to the market. There are, however, still some weak sellers who meet buyers' views. A further advice, dated April 15, again reports a brisker demand, and buyers were compelled to pay the higher prices asked by sellers, who continue to

maintain a reserved attitude. The larger producers are unwilling to sell even at the recently advanced prices, as there are still some local requirements to be covered. Agents in London quote from 4s. 8d. to 4s. 9d. c.i.f.

LIME-JUICE is in steady demand at from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. for inferior to good raw West Indian.

MENTHOL.—Steady at 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d. per lb. spot for Kobayashi or Suzuki, but some ask 16s. to 16s. 6d. There are buyers at 14s. 6d. c.i.f.

MORPHINE.—Owing to the further advance in opium the makers have raised the price of hydrochlor. powder by 4d. to 8s. per oz. for bottom quantities.

OPUM continues strong, the spot price for Turkey druggists' now being 16s. per lb., which has been paid, and for shipment from Smyrna (11½ per cent.) is quoted 17s. With a crop estimated at between three and four thousand cases, the probability is that the present rates will be maintained.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on April 7 reporting a very active market, sales amounting to 166 cases, of which 152 are for U.S.A. and 14 for account of interior speculators. The market opened at 16s., and very quickly advanced to 16s. 8d. for extra selected Karahissar, and to-day closes very firm at 16s. 8d. to 17s. for richer grades. Common low qualities range from 13s. to 15s., according to strength. The general opinion is that we shall reach ultimately 20s., and even more if our crop turns out to be only 2,000 to 3,000 cases. The arrivals to date amount to 4,436 cases, against 1,926 at same period last year.—Another advice dated April 8 confirms the above in regard to the purchases for American account, the sales comprising 164 cases extra Karahissar at the equivalent of from 16s. 8d. to 17s. 9d. According to reports from the interior the present estimates in regard to the crop point to one of about 4,000 cases.

ORANGE OIL.—An advice from Palermo dated April 12 states that the market remains very firm at practically unchanged rates, and a further advice of April 15 refers to the strong position, the available supply not being large.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—Although an easier feeling is indicated from the United States, the lay-down cost is still about 12s. 6d. for Wayne County tin oil, 14s. 9d. for H.G.H., and 7s. 9d. for Japanese dementholised in single cases.

QUICKSILVER.—The official quotation is unaltered at 9l. 5s. per bottle, but second-hands quote the easier rate of 8l. 11s.

QUININE.—The market has barely opened since the holidays, but last week's firmer tone is maintained at 6½d. for the usual German brands, 6½d. for Amsterdam, and 6d. to 6½d. for Java.

TARTARIC ACID is firmer and in better demand, foreign being quoted 1s. 0½d., the makers' price for English being 1s. 2d., but they are not anxious for business.

TURPENTINE has advanced 2s. 9d. per cwt. on the week, closing at 67s. 3d. for American on the spot.

VANILLIN has been in fair demand at the full official contract rates.

Ammonia Sulphate.

The prospects of the autumn campaign in this commodity have already been the subject of much speculation on this side and on the Continent, while consumers are now disposed to place orders for future delivery. It is suggested that the same factors which made for the enhancement of prices for spring trade requirements are likely to govern the situation once more. These factors are the very independent position of British manufacturers in view of a big outlet in the export trades and the reduced quantities which the German and Belgian producers' combinations have now available for the Continental market in consequence of the increased outlet for domestic requirements. Thanks to the large extension of the British market, where operators negotiate orders of increasingly larger proportions for the United States and Japan, the supplies available on the Continent find a ready outlet. From a commercial point of view the spring campaign is now over. The expansion of consumption has been very considerable in all countries, and it is feared in France that importations in the autumn will fall considerably short of requirements, while the great bulk of the output in Great Britain continues to find its way to the Far East and the United States. The latter consumes enormous quantities of all descriptions of material for fertilising purposes, especially for the cultivation of cotton, which is highly remunerative.

The two largest producing countries are Great Britain and Germany, while the latter's output for the past year has for

the first time gone ahead of that of Great Britain. Whereas the output in this country has made relatively slow progress, though constantly on the increase, the German production has risen by leaps and bounds, as may be seen from the following returns of production of the two countries for the last decade:

		Great Britain	Germany
1900 (in tons)	...	213,000	130,000
1901	"	217,000	130,000
1902	"	229,000	135,000
1903	"	234,000	140,000
1904	"	245,000	175,000
1905	"	268,000	190,000
1906	"	289,000	255,000
1907	"	313,000	287,000
1908	"	314,000	313,000
1909	"	348,000	340,000
1910	"	369,000	375,000

As Great Britain consumes but a fractional portion of her output—about 85,000 tons annually—she continues to rule the world's markets. Germany, on the contrary, absorbs the greater part of her production, her requirements for last year being estimated at about 330,000 tons. Other countries' contributions of output are far below the figures of the two chief producing countries. The details of the world's output for the last three years are given as follows by the French journal "L'Engrais":

		1908	1909	1910
Great Britain	(in tons) ...	321,500	348,500	369,000
Germany	" ...	313,000	340,000	375,000
France	" ...	52,000	53,000	56,000
Belgium	" ...	30,000	35,000	36,000
Holland	" ...	5,000	5,000	4,800
Austria-Hungary	" ...	35,000	50,000	100,000
Spain	" ...	12,000	12,000	9,000
Italy	" ...	11,000	12,000	12,000
United States	" ...	40,000	90,000	116,000
Japan	" ...	2,500	3,000	4,000
Other countries	" ...	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total	...	852,000	978,500	1,111,800

In view of the commanding position of the British market the progress of the exports from Britain is of interest. The returns compiled by Messrs. Bradbury & Hirsch for the last three years are as follows:

		1908	1909	1910
France	(in tons) ...	23,634	12,030	8,437
Germany	" ...	24,423	31,545	7,070
Belgium	" ...	9,213	6,567	483
Spain and Portugal	" ...	51,667	56,137	50,241
Italy	" ...	7,304	10,490	10,202
Canaries	" ...	6,860	5,785	6,673
Holland	" ...	7,391	7,137	3,415
Java	" ...	13,373	23,027	32,362
Guiana (Brit.)	" ...	8,134	8,161	7,532
East Indies	" ...	3,975	5,105	5,271
Mauritius	" ...	4,127	5,727	6,009
Japan	" ...	38,745	49,275	57,360
United States	" ...	28,923	35,080	76,111
Other countries	" ...	7,159	8,875	12,651
Total	...	234,921	263,941	283,817

It will be seen that the exports to France, Germany, and Belgium have shrunk substantially, which is fully explained in the case of Germany by her rapid increase of output. The deficit in the imports of European countries has, however, been by far offset by the heavy increase in the takings for the United States, Java, and Japan. In spite of the growth of production, the outlook is considered favourable for the maintenance of high prices, thanks to the increasing outlet for the product in all agricultural countries.

Ambergris.

Pieces of ambergris weighing 160 lb. and valued at about 1,000*l.* were discovered on Sunday, March 5, in whales being worked by the Smithton Syndicate on Perkins Island, Tasmania, where they recently went ashore. The steamer *Marrawah* brought news to Burnie on Monday, March 6, that further quantities of the precious substance had been discovered, its total value being 2,000*l.* All the whales are of the true sperm variety, but, owing to the stage to which decomposition had advanced, not all of them were worked. The syndicate's capital was 300*l.* originally. In sending us the above news a Tasmanian subscriber states that thirty-seven whales were driven ashore. Smithton is on the Duck River, north-west coast of Tasmania.

Paraffin Wax.

A good deal of satisfaction is felt in Scottish oil circles at the announcement that the Galician oil refiners have settled their differences and that an arrangement has been come to whereby prices will be regulated and placed on a remunerative level. The fact is of much interest to Scottish producers, who for two years have found their profit on paraffin wax dwindle to the irreducible through outside competition. It is reasonable to assume that the advances agreed to on the Continent will extend to all products, and that before long the Scottish companies will find themselves in a position to raise their market prices for wax. The season's prices are now being fixed. The importance of the agreement may be guessed when it is said that an advance of 1*d.* per lb. on the Scottish production of paraffin wax would mean a gain of a quarter of a million sterling.

New Zealand Honey.

In a report dated November 23, 1910, the New Zealand Produce Commissioner in London states that "the demand for finest-quality honey on the British market has been good for a length of time past. Shipments from New Zealand, besides being inconsiderable, have not been made with the regularity essential to the establishment of a steady trade. Consequently prices realised, while fairly good, have not been so satisfactory as they would have been had traders been assured of a regular and steadily increasing supply. The class of honey most in demand in Britain is one of fine flavour, bright orange or yellow colour, and smooth consistency. For New Zealand honey of this description up to 40s. per cwt. had been the price lately ruling. . . . Inferior quality is only saleable at much lower prices, as it comes into direct competition with large supplies of secondary honey from other countries, for which prices were then from 25s. to 30s. Several lots of inferior-quality New Zealand honey had been on the market lately, some parcels not being of good colour, while others had a strong and unattractive flavour. New Zealand consignments had also come under notice in which the honey was packed in 2-lb. tins. Consumers in England are strongly adverse to purchasing honey in tins. Honey is invariably retailed in attractive glass bottles or jars. As it would not pay to ship honey so made up, it is necessary that it be shipped in bulk, and packed for sale to the retail trade in glass bottles after being landed. The honey should be run—not sent in the comb. It should be packed in 56-lb. tins, two in a case, with a neat, clean finish. It would also be well to prominently label or brand the cases "New Zealand." The highest price for honey is generally obtained in the winter, when the demand is greatest. The English honey crop in the last season was an unusually short one, and supplies were short. Reports from California and Jamaica, the two chief sources of outside supply, indicated that a shortage was also being experienced there. The prospects, therefore, were for high ruling prices for some time, and shipments made from New Zealand early in the coming season should find a ready sale. For the establishment of a satisfactory trade, however, regularity of supply and high standard of quality are essential. . . . There are regularly fortnightly sales of honey in London, but for the finer qualities it is usually found that better prices are obtained by private treaty than by auction."

Kauri Gum.

At the instance of the Minister of Agriculture and of Industries and Commerce the High Commissioner of New Zealand has made representations to the British Board of Trade with regard to the official use of the word "kauri" when describing gum produced in New Caledonia. It is pointed out to the Board that the word "kauri" is the Maori name of the tree, and is the name under which the New Zealand product is known on the markets of the world. It is understood that, though obtained from a tree of the same genus, the New Caledonia gum is different from and inferior to the New Zealand kauri gum, which is indigenous to New Zealand only, there being no trees of the same species (*Agathis australis*) found in other countries. The application of the term "kauri" to this foreign gum is therefore likely to injure the New Zealand article, and it is desired that in British official publications the Dominion should have the exclusive right to the name "kauri." It is suggested that the other article could be designated "New Caledonian gum." The attention of the Foreign Office is being drawn to the matter.

JAPANESE MERCHANTS recently appeared in the camphor-producing regions of Kwangtung, China, with a proposal to erect a camphor factory and take over the camphor-producing industry from the Chinese. Their proposals, however, met with little sympathy, the Chinese tree-owners alone offering any assistance.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for £1) and lodged with Mr. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," March 29, 1911.)

"HORTON'S," and triangular label design; for toilet soap (48). By Horton Liquid Soap Co., 245 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C. 330,208.

"COREXA"; for perfumery, etc (48). By H. P. Truefitt, Ltd., 16 Old Bond Street, London, W. 330,993.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," April 5, 1911.)

"PHOENIX"; for photographic plates (1). By Leto Photo Materials Co. (1905), Ltd., 1 Crutched Friars, London, E.C. 331,560.

"FURAX"; for vermin-destroyer (rat poison) (2). By F. T. Alpe, Town Green, Wymondham. 324,778.

"THE FATAL BLOW," and powder-bellows device; for an insect-destroying preparation (2). By Kitchen Pests Destroying Co., 23 Paternoster Square, London, E.C. 330,844.

"MARIFOAM"; for all goods (3). By J. Grant, 369 Eglinton Street, Glasgow. 331,346.

"PROTICAS, ELLANBEE BRAND," and monogram; for a medicinal food (3). By Lewis & Burrows, Ltd., 146 Holborn, London, E.C. 330,826.

"VIOLOXOL"; for essential oils and essences (4 and 42). By Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., 48 Southwark Street, London, S.E. 330,491, 330,490.

"ESTOL"; for enemas (11). By Stock & Oelbermann, 10 Yorkstrasse, Cologne-Nippes. 329,727.

Mark: Sprudel and device of girl's head, taking liquid from spoon; for mineral waters, etc. (44). By N. Ilcock, Potsdamerstrasse 73, Berlin, W. 329,446.

"BEAU BRUMMELL"; for perfumed toilet soap (48). By West Disinfecting Co., 2 East 42nd Street, New York. 329,301.

"CHIMERA, GIBSON GIRL, LA RÉVÉRENCE"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By F. Mulhens, Glockengasse 4711, Cologne. 330,683/4/6.

"COLMA"; for hair-preparations and pomade (48). By Stirlingshire Toilet Co., 12 Park Terrace, Falkirk. 330,816.

Picture of Indian girl, with foreign characters meaning "Daughter of Paradise"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By E. Rimmel, Ltd., 76 Strand, London, W.C. 331,363.

"CAMP"; for perfumery, etc (48). By G. W. Goodwin & Son, Ordsall Lane Soap Works, Manchester. 331,299.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," April 12, 1911.)

"ERYTRANOL"; for chemicals (1). By A. Heinemann, 164 Mainzer Landstrasse, Worms. 330,519.

"DENOVO"; for tetanus chloride and sulphate (1). By Peter Spence & Sons, Ltd. Holland Street, Manchester. 331,384.

"SULZINITE"; for chemicals (1). By J. E. Booth, 72 Hurst Grove, Bedford. 331,496.

"SALUFORM"; for a dust-laying disinfectant (2). By Worlds Import ved Chr. Platou, St. Jacobsgade, 9 Copenhagen. 330,306.

"ANTIFERIN" (disclaimed), and facsimile signature; for veterinary chemicals (2). By H. W. Robinson, 49 Belgrave Square, Rathmines, Dublin. 331,100.

"GIT"; for a disinfectant (2). By J. Sim, 15 Manor Road, Hoylake. 331,479.

"BRONCURA"; for bronchial medicaments (3). By Guy's Tonic Co., 12 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W. 329,861.

"SPRAINOLA," and letters "T D" in a diamond; for a liniment (3). By T. Dickens, 42 Lawrence Avenue, Manor Park, Essex. 330,154.

"LECIFORM," and monogram "L. Co." in circle; for medicinal chemicals (3) and for food substances (42). By Leciform Co., 10 Eastcheap, London, E.C. 330,942/3.

"UNCLE TOM"; for medicines (3) and for metal-polish (50). By J. H. Foster, 111 Grove Avenue, Hanwell, London, W. 331,640/1.

"SEAGULL"; for sponges (4). By Stone & Son, Monument Buildings, London, E.C. 331,763.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest.

Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

What Attracts in Advertising?

SIR,—All kinds of advertising, whether placard, window display, or booklet appeal to me. The "hypnotic" style of advertising may scarcely appeal to all, but if "X-rayser II." means the personality attached to all forms of advertising I entirely agree with him. Be original and you cannot help but attract and be talked about. Get a good name and see that you keep it, but you cannot expect to be well talked about unless you have something a little bit different from the other man. What better advertisement has a chemist than a real live personal man behind the counter, whether it be himself or an assistant? Personality attracts and retains, and many customers frequently ask to see Mr. So-and-so. Why? Because his personality and manner appeal particularly to them, and when he leaves the shop perhaps they go elsewhere. It's the little things that count in advertising, and publicity as in everything else, and though a bare name may bring your firm's name to the mind, it requires the personal touch or word, either spoken or written, to clinch the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Burton-on-Trent.

W. J. PEARSON.

The Fairchild Scholarship and the Minor.

SIR,—The pharmaceutical student of to-day cannot afford to give much consideration to subjects which are outside the limits of his examination syllabus. When he has attained the age of twenty his Minor examination ought to be in the near future. Before then he has generally been serving an apprenticeship which is supposed to have given him a good grounding in the elements of practical pharmacy, chemistry, materia medica, and business knowledge. If he has made good use of his spare time during his apprenticeship, when it is concluded he will be in a position to compete for a scholarship such as the Fairchild with a reasonable prospect of success. An examination of the syllabus of the scholarship reveals the fact that the subjects to be studied are the same as those required for the Minor, with the exception that no practical work is required and botany is not necessary. The business knowledge paper seems at first glance to be outside the Minor syllabus. Perhaps to a certain extent it is, but a knowledge of business principles as applied to a chemist's business is more necessary to a young chemist on embarking into business on his own account than some of the subjects which are now necessary for the Minor. It is not a theoretical knowledge obtained from books, but a practical knowledge gained by observation in the shop which is required. The five business knowledge questions which were set in 1910 could all have been answered well by anyone in the second year of his apprenticeship, if he has used his eyes and ears to good purpose. Since I have gone through both the Fairchild and the Minor examinations I am able to speak from personal knowledge of the subjects common to both.

The materia medica paper resembles that of the Minor perhaps more than any of the others, and I found that the knowledge expected for both examinations was practically identical, with the exception that for the Fairchild the candidate is questioned upon the animal and vegetable drugs of the pharmacopœia only. Here books are necessary. I did most of my materia medica from "Southall," but it is important that comparisons of specimens should not be omitted. The average pharmacy will provide all

the specimens about which the candidate will be questioned by the Fairchild examiner. There are no catch questions on rare drugs. The examination is intended to find out if a candidate has had an interest in the various drugs which he has been handling. If he has taken any interest in them, then he will naturally have supplemented his observations by reference to books such as "Squire," and this subject, instead of being a burden upon his memory, will become a pleasure to him. In chemistry I found that the knowledge required for the Minor was much beyond that for the Fairchild, but without a knowledge of fundamentals, such as is expected by the Scholarship examiner, no student can expect to be successful in the Minor. A good knowledge of chemical theory is necessary. The first few chapters in Newth's "Chemistry" well repay careful reading, and once they are thoroughly understood are never forgotten. In both examinations it was well for me that I had a good knowledge of practical chemistry. I had been for some time a competitor in the Corner for Students competition of the *C. & D.*, and always carefully studied Dr. Dobbin's remarks when the results were published. The chemistry, both theoretical and practical, which I learnt in this way proved far more useful than I had ever expected. Three out of the six questions in the chemistry paper set in the 1910 Scholarship examination and many of the Minor questions which I was asked in the recent examination were directly dependent upon a knowledge of the reactions which take place when simple compounds are made and tests applied for them. In practical pharmacy and prescription reading the candidate who has spent some time in a good pharmacy has a great advantage over one who has not been so fortunate. Even the latter, however, can get a good knowledge of the processes and whys and wherefores of the B.P. from such a book as Lucas's "Practical Pharmacy," which I got as a prize from the *C. & D.*, or White and Humphrey's "Pharmacopædia." In the prescription reading of the Scholarship and the dispensing of the Minor, "The Art of Dispensing," published by the *C. & D.*, covers all requirements with a good deal to spare. A Latin grammar such as Ince's is required for translation of prescriptions.

I have endeavoured to show that no student need be afraid that, in studying for the Fairchild Scholarship, he is departing in the least from the Minor syllabus. Far from it being in any way a waste of time, I found that the sound knowledge of the first principles of the subjects required for the Scholarship examination was afterwards of great assistance to me in my Minor. The idea of a compulsory curriculum and an Intermediate examination is to ensure that the student shall thoroughly understand the elementary portion of the examination syllabus before he proceeds to the more advanced work. This, I think, was the idea of the founders of the Fairchild Scholarship, and it materialised in the form of the Scholarship. It is an Intermediate examination without an entrance fee, and several good prizes for students who do well, in addition to the 50*l.* scholarship for the best set of answers.

Yours faithfully,

HARRY BRINDLE (Fairchild Scholar, 1910).

Bolton.

A Dental Problem.

SIR,—The cause of the suppressed or delayed dentition cited by Mr. Mumbray may have to be sought in quite another direction from the one he indicates. His theory is original, though would not the consuming of an inordinate amount of presumably cheap sweets such as he names cause stomachic and hepatic derangement and so vitiate the child's health? The normal appetite for more rational food would be destroyed, mal-assimilation and deficiency of bone-forming material result in a rickety condition, lowering the power of nutrition, but not causing an absorption of what is established prenatally? Saccharine matter in the blood in health is an infinitesimal amount, whether lactose or glucose I do not know (perhaps maltose in beer-drinkers), but an excessive amount in the blood would either be oxidised by the lungs, and used up by the human economy to form adipose tissue or excreted with other effete matter—otherwise a glucohæmic condition would arise and result in diabetes.

Inquiry into the family history—the mother's health

during gestation and the infant's health—might show why the metamorphosis was arrested. The absorbent process attributed to odontoclasts which attacks the apices of the deciduous teeth is not regular in its functions even in the same mouth at times. Is it possible that the mercurial treatment of the mother prior to the child's birth or the giving of mercurial powders to the child in infancy may have stagnated the development of the enamel follicles? This latter would be an exception, by all that one sees in the dosing of children. After all the theorising, one sometimes encounters the impenetrable, and must fall back upon the comprehensiveness of atavism. I remember seeing some time ago a girl aged 14 years who had neither bicuspidis nor molars in the left lower jaw. Her mother assured me she had never had any teeth there, and accounted for it by telling me that she (an equestrienne) fell from a horse and struck the barrier of the circus ring with her lower jaw in the early days of her pregnancy. One must not lose sight of the fact, as we say in Lancashire, "There's nowt so queer as a woman, an' there's nowt queerer than a woman that's noan queer."

Yours,

W. T. K. (10/16.)

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

Slug-powders.

With reference to the reply to "J. W. M." (255/161) on this subject in our issue of April 15, where the great difficulty of dealing with slugs was referred to, the Sanitas Co., Ltd., inform us that Mr. W. P. Wright, in his book "The Garden Week by Week," inserts the following:

"The particular hint I was going to give you about slugs is to scatter 'Sanitas' powder on the soil among the plants—slugs simply loathe it."

This is one of those useful hints that chemists can make more widely known, especially as it should foster the sale of a profitable and popular powder.

The Public's Guardians.

The subjoined order was given to a chemist to fill recently:

1 dram of morphia.
1 dram of chloroform.
5 drams of honey of squills.

Liq. morphinæ and spt. chlorof. were intended for the first two ingredients, but even then no dose is mentioned. The following prescription is another example of careless prescribing:

Phosphorus	...	...	...	...	gr. iss.
Ferri redact.	...	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Ext. nuc. v.	...	...	...	...	gr. ss.

in each pill.

Take one three times a day.

On the error being pointed out the quantity of phosphorus was altered to 3*ss* gr. This shows how chemists have to guard the public against their own and some medical men's carelessness.—*T. D. R.* (217/48).

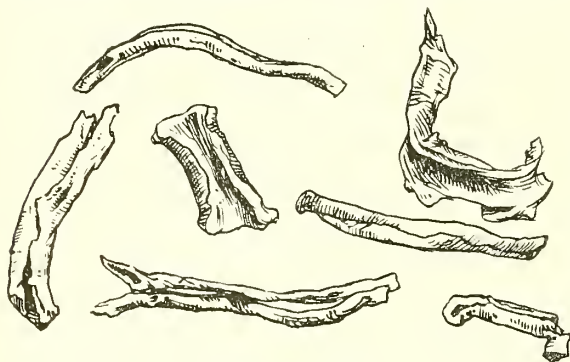
Chlorocodon Root.

Mr. A. E. Bertie-Smith (Entebbe, Uganda) has sent us a sample of the root of *Chlorocodon Whitii*, a plant which grows in the forests of the Uganda Protectorate, and which was reported upon by Professor Dunstan, of the Imperial Institute, in July 1908, who said:

"The odorous constituent is not present in the woody core of the root, but was found to the extent of 1.7 per cent. in the bark, calculated on the dry material. It is unlikely that a market for 'Chlorocodon' roots could be found in this country since vanillin and heliotropin can now be obtained very cheaply. The odorous principle is, however, of great interest from a scientific point of view."

Mr. Bertie-Smith does not share Professor Dunstan's view as to the commercial value of the drug in competition with the synthetic flavours, and adds: "*Chlorocodon Cortex* yields a new entrancing flavour quite distinct from any at present in commerce, and it should have very many uses in pharmacy, perfumery, confectionery, and in the mineral-water essence trade. The root bark has a slightly bitter sweet taste, it is perfectly harmless, and can be eaten with impunity, and hence it can be used *per se* in confection pastes, etc., after fine pulverisation. Its odour is somewhat like vanilla and is very pleasant; while it has this remarkable peculiarity

that it is somewhat persistent. It imparts a most agreeable fresh flavour which remains for several minutes in the mouth. This peculiarity is a novelty, and renders the drug particularly adaptable in the manufacture of cachous, chewing-gum, ice cream, mouth-wash, puddings, custards, jellies, flavouring



CHLOROCODON ROOT.

essence, etc. The odorous principle is easily exhausted from the bark by proof spirit, which yields a rich red 1 in 8 tincture. The natives of Uganda are in the habit of chewing the fresh root, which in that state is much more bitter. All are very fond of it, and dig the roots up whenever they come across the plant. For this reason it is not at all plentiful, and the petty village chiefs resent collection of the wild plant by strangers. In case of any considerable demand it would not be possible to collect large quantities, but the root is easily cultivated, and on one rubber estate a plantation is being made." Mr. Bertie-Smith adds that a small shipment has been sent to Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., for a systematic test. [Mr. John C. Umney, F.C.S., informs us that he is having the root examined in his company's research laboratory, but so far the investigation rather confirms the Imperial Institute opinion of the root. We may recall that Dr. Ernest Goulding and Mr. Pelly, of the Institute scientific staff, published a note on the odorous constituent of chlorocodon root ("Chemical Society Proceedings," 1908, p. 62), in which they showed that it was isomeric with vanillin and heliotropin, and resembled both these in aroma and flavour. Since then the compound has been synthesised by Friedländer ("Monatshfte," 1909, p. 879) and proved to be o-hydroxyanisaldehyde. It can be readily synthesised from comparatively cheap materials, so that even if it found a vogue as a flavouring agent it would soon be produced synthetically on a commercial scale. According to Goulding and Pelly the whole root contains only 0.5 per cent. of the odorous substance. It is hardly likely, therefore, that the natural product could compete in price with the synthetic one, especially as the cost of transport of the roots from Uganda would be high.]

Dispensing Notes.

This section is for the discussion and solution of dispensing problems and prescriptions received by "C. & D." readers. We are always pleased to receive the opinions of readers for publication. "The Art of Dispensing" ("C. & D." Office, 6s.) is the standard book of reference on this subject.

A Problem.

SIR,—I should like to know the opinion of your readers on "How should the following prescription be dispensed?"

Acidi boric. ... 3j.
Sodii bibor. ... 3ij.
Zinci sulph. ... gr. xij.
Aquam ad ... 3xij.

M. Ft. lotio.

Sig.: The eyelids to be bathed every night with the lotion. I have had the prescription to dispense from a lady, who remarked, "Please make up the eye-lotion; and will you please make it properly, as I have had it made up wrongly several times?" The prescription bore seven chemists' stamps. My dispensing pleased the lady, but I should like to know why. After seeing the views of readers I will say how I dispensed the prescription.

Yours truly,
PERPLEXED. (10/43.)

Menthol and Thymol Preparation.

L. Jones wants to know the best way of dispensing the following formula. He has tried several times to get the desired result, and only once succeeded. A cloudy result has

been obtained generally, whereas a perfectly bright red should result, he says:

Menthol.	...	...	...	...	3j.
Thymol.	...	...	...	...	gr. x.
Tr. benz. co.	...	...	...	...	3ij.
Tr. lavand. co.	...	...	...	...	3ij.
Tr. myrrh.	...	...	...	...	3ij.
Sat. sol. sodii bibor. ad	...	...	...	...	3viii.

[The first procedure that is suggested by this prescription is to rub the menthol and thymol together, take them up with the tinctures and pour the mixture into the saturated solution of borax. Compounded in this way the result is not satisfying—some resin adheres to the upper part of the bottle, there is a brick-coloured precipitate, and the liquid itself has a brown-brick colour, but on the whole better than might be expected considering the nature of the constituents. Borax in hot aqueous solution has a solvent action on resins. The following procedure will give the best results likely to be obtained from the formula: Rub the menthol and thymol together till they liquefy, and add the tinctures; prepare a sufficiency of saturated solution of borax, heat it to boiling-point and place in a bottle; introduce the tincture mixture into the centre of the hot solution by means of a long-stemmed funnel, shake quickly and continue the shaking for a few minutes. The result is a liquid of a warm-red colour with a small brick-red precipitate, but no resin adherent to bottle nor floating in the liquid. We are in doubt as to what Mr. Jones means by a "perfectly bright red." The liquid is not bright in the sense of one being able to see through it. In the nature of things it must be somewhat opalescent, owing to the menthol, thymol, and essential oils of the compound tincture of lavender.]

Resorcin and Paroleine.

A. F. (6/1) had the following prescription to dispense:

Paroleine	...	...	...	...	5j.
Resorcin	...	...	...	...	2 per cent.

Make a solution for atomiser.

How can this be done? Resorcin will not dissolve in liquid paraffin, and even dissolved in a few drops of S.V.R. the result, from an atomising point of view, is most unsatisfactory. [After ascertaining that resorcin is not soluble in paroleine one naturally turns to the device in use for alkaloïds in such circumstances—i.e., to dissolve in oleic acid and add to the paroleine. In this case, however, that method does not work: the resorcin is immediately thrown out of solution. Resorcin is soluble in ordinary fixed oils such as olive and almond to a greater extent than the strength required in the prescription. These are somewhat heavier than paroleine. By using a proportion of oleic acid the gravity is somewhat reduced. Suppose you take oleic acid 30 and almond oil, or even better, as it has less colour, the so-called peach-kernel oil 70. Dissolve the resorcin in the oleic acid, using a little heat if necessary, and add the solution to the oil selected. The prescriber would probably be pleased to be informed that the prescription as written is not workable.]

From Orange River Colony.

F. W. J. (5/2) asks what is meant by "Green Infusion"? Also the correct way of dispensing the following:

Tinct. bellad.	...	...	...	3j.
Ext. cannab. ind.	...	...	...	gr. xvj.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3ij.
Tinct. aurantii	...	...	...	3iv.
Aquam ad	...	...	...	3iv.

[The only green infusion with which we are acquainted is infusion of green tea. This we have encountered in prescriptions for hair-washes, asthma-mixtures, and such like. The context may help you as to whether or not this would be appropriate. The best way to compound the prescription is to add 4 fluid drachms of rectified spirit to the tincture of orange; in the mixture dissolve the extract of Indian hemp and add the tincture of belladonna; strain into a bottle, pour in the glycerin, and mix by shaking quickly. This makes quite a nice mixture. The rectified spirit is used instead of the small quantity of water in the prescription.]

Solution of Zinc Chloride.

SIR,—I have read with interest the correspondence respecting the precipitate and clearing up of the same when zinc chloride is dissolved in distilled water. The carbonate mentioned by one correspondent I cannot agree with, and I fancy most of us will come to the conclusion that an oxychloride is certainly there, and there may be a little of some other acid radical. Personally, I have found the following a fairly good method of dispersing the cloudiness: To each ounce of a solution of zinc chloride (strength, 1 grain to the ounce) add 1 to 1½ grain of pure sodium chloride and stir well. Allow to stand about five or ten minutes, when a somewhat curdy precipitate forms, but gradually redissolves on agitation. Strain (or filter preferably) any little quantity of

precipitate that may remain, and the solution is perfectly clear and will stay for a long time. I presume a kind of double chloride of Zn and Na is formed, and which becomes almost entirely soluble. It is certain that the small amount of NaCl added cannot do any harm whatever, and "clears up" a cloudy solution. Yours faithfully,

A DISPENSER. (11/71.)

Eucaïne and Hamamelin Suppositories.

SIR,—Will you please give me any practical suggestions as to dispensing the following prescription?

Eucaïn. A.	...	...	...	gr. ss.
Hamamelin.	...	...	...	gr. v.
Ext. conii	...	...	...	gr. iv.

M. ft. suppos. (Make with a gelatin base.) Mitte xij.

DORSET. (12/13.)

[There is too much medicament to permit its incorporation in a basis to produce a workable suppository from the conventional 15-grain mould. Rub down the eucaïne, hamamelin, and conium extract with 5 minims of warm water, and mix with sufficient melted glycerin suppository mass to fill a 30-minim mould such as is used for glycerin suppositories. In this way quite a nice suppository is produced, and the glycerin mass is sufficiently diluted to render it unlikely to be over-stimulating and lead to the suppository not being retained.]

Balsam of Peru Emulsion.

Inquisitive (10/55) asks if the balsam can be emulsified with liquor potassæ. [No; this would saponify the esters present. Powdered gum acacia is the best emulsifier for it. Use weight for weight. See "The Art of Dispensing," p. 324.]

Legal Queries.

Consult the Legal Advice Section of "The Chemists' and Druggists Diary," 1911, p. 435, before writing about your difficulty.

C. W. (4/56).—Your label for a cure for eezema blotch, surfeit, and all disorders of the skin in dogs and other animals does not make the preparation liable to medicine stamp-duty, because it is only medicines for the "prevention, cure, or relief of the ailments of man" that are dutiable.

S. H. E. (259/9).—The decision by the House of Lords in *Bellerby v. Heyworth and Bowen* a year ago enables a person who is not registered under the Dentists Act to apply the description "Dental Surgery" to his premises. See *C. & D. Diary*, 1911, p. 462.

Gentian (246/23).—A person may hawk non-dutiable pills or other medicines from door to door, provided they do not contain scheduled poisons, and he is licensed as a pedlar or hawker as his mode of locomotion requires. If the medicines are dutiable they may only be sold in licensed premises—not hawked.

R. W. (8/67).—WHITE-WINE VINEGAR is a preparation distilled from wine. If you sell dilute acetic acid as and for "White-wine Vinegar" that will be an offence under Section 6 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875. Dilute acetic acid may be sold as "Vinegar made from acetic acid." The purchaser should also be notified of the fact at the time of sale.

A. F. (1/6).—The presence of any scales whatsoever on premises used for the purpose of trade is regarded as *prima facie* evidence that the scales are in use for trade. A label attached to the scales intimating that they are used for stock purposes only is not likely to free a chemist from liability should the scales be inaccurate or unstamped. Read the paragraphs on this subject in the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 465.

Druggist (258/25).—When a registered chemist is the owner of a retail business from which he is so frequently absent that he employs a qualified assistant as manager, the certificate of either may be exhibited on the premises. If the owner cannot conscientiously say that the business is *bona-fide* conducted by himself, the certificate of the qualified assistant should certainly be shown, and there is nothing in the 1908 Act to prevent the owner's also being exhibited.

Stower (7/28).—A PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY, without a registered chemist on its board and trading as a drug-store without using the title of "Chemist and Druggist" must, if it dispenses or sells poisons, have a registered chemist and druggist as manager of the company, and his name must be communicated to the Registrar under the Pharmacy Acts. If in any of its branches poisons are dispensed or retailed, a registered chemist and druggist must be in charge of that branch, if it is not managed by the superintendent.

Medalo (10/28).—A private company in England may not use the titles "Pharmaceutical Chemist," "Pharmaceutist," or "Pharmacist," or any name, title, or sign implying registration under the 1852 Act. It is probable that "Pharmaciens de la 1^{re} Classe" might be so regarded by the courts. If the business belongs to a pharmaceutical chemist who is such a pharmacist the title may be used in association with his name. A private company is a company of two or more individuals registered under the Joint-Stock Companies Act, but the description is frequently used by individuals to indicate a business carried on by a single individual as "Blank & Co." Such a private concern, not being a limited company, may use the titles.

Corylus (7/17) receives a number of testimonials as to the efficacy of a proprietary article which he sells, and he wants to know if it would be lawful for him to print a selection of these testimonials and initial them, as a handbill, inserting a copy with future orders. [Testimonials, like all other private letters addressed and written by individuals and sent to other individuals, are privileged, and if published with the names and addresses of the writers, or in such a manner as to identify the writers with the statements, the person who publishes can be held to be responsible. "Publication" consists in the receiver of the letter passing it on to a third party. The sanction of the writers to the use of the letters, with or without their names and addresses, should in every case be obtained.]

Joint-owner (4/29) puts this case: A. and B. were partners in business, and were equal joint-owners of the freehold premises in which the business was conducted. A. died, and B. bought his share of the business by payment to the executors of A. B. continued to trade in the premises, paying A.'s executors annually an agreed-upon sum in respect to the rental of the premises, being A.'s share thereof. What is the position of the executors? Can they cause B. to vacate the premises if another tenant comes along who is willing to pay a higher rent? May they refuse to give B. a longer term of agreement than one year, or put the premises up to auction? [We are of opinion that the executor's remedy is to apply to the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice for an order for partition or sale of the property, unless the owner of the other share of the property will buy them out. The executors should write to the tenant, and say they are dissatisfied with the rent, and that, unless the tenant is prepared to agree to take the premises at an adequate rental, the executors would prefer the property to be sold or for the tenant to buy A.'s share at an agreed figure. If nothing can be done by agreement, the executors had better place the matter in the hands of a local solicitor of repute, and instruct him to do what is necessary.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information given in this section during the past twelve months. When references are given to past issues, these should be consulted. Back numbers for the past five years can generally be obtained from our office at the published prices. We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles.

Subscriber (2/19) wants to pay his assistant commission as well as salary (equal to 55s. a week), and asks: (a) What share of profit is usual? [From 2½ to 5 per cent. on all takings above an agreed-upon amount, say 50l. a week.] (b) Whether it is better to give commission on own proprietaries, or let share depend on actual increase in net profit? [If the commission is given on own goods alone, assistants are apt to pay too much attention to these and neglect other goods. A compromise between the two systems might be adopted, say 2½ per cent. as in (a), and 5 per cent. on own proprietaries.] (c) What increase should be required before sharing in profits begins? [That entirely depends upon the business, the individuals, and the special goods. Will other subscribers give their experience to guide our correspondence?]

Nimo (247/64).—(1) LAVENDER-WATER prepared with English oil of lavender and synthetic musk should not turn pink when exposed to sunlight if absolutely pure musk has been used. There are numerous types of artificial musk, such as ketone musk, nitro-hydrocarbon musk, etc., and some varieties are not quite pure. Diluted musks may be more soluble than 100-per-cent. musks owing to the addition of a solid material which is itself a solvent of musk. To render the insoluble varieties soluble the use of a small quantity of solvents, such as benzyl benzoate, is often recommended, with a subsequent addition of the spirituous menstruum. (2) There are plenty of synthetic violets to be purchased at reasonable prices, and it is always best to employ 100-per-cent. artificial violet. Any of our advertisers who deal in synthetic perfumes will give you particulars.

W. R. (258/41).—DEFINITION OF A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.—This matter was discussed rather fully in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* two or three years ago. There is no difficulty in framing a definition, but it is more difficult to act upon it in regard to allowing the discounts which differentiate between an amateur and a professional.

Caries (258/73).—MEDICAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.—The Second-class College of Preceptors' certificate is accepted by the General Medical Council for registration as a dental student, provided the necessary subjects are included. The College conducts a special Medical and Dental Preliminary Examination, which is most suitable for chemists who propose to go forward to medicine or dentistry, as it meets the requirements for registration as a student of pharmacy. You will obtain full particulars in the last Educational Number of the *C. & D.*, published August 13, 1910.

Cascara (259/25).—TREATMENT OF THE MORPHINE HABIT.—This is now successfully accomplished in institutions and nursing homes where the patient can be under the direct supervision of a medical practitioner. The methods vary somewhat, but consist generally of the administration of sedatives, such as the bromides, tonics of the strychnine class, and gradual diminution of the morphine or other narcotic which the patient has been using. The following is an abstract of an article on the subject recently communicated to the "*British Medical Journal*" by Dr. John Q. Donald, medical superintendent of the Invercrudden Sanatorium, Dairsie:

1. The patient is put to bed the second day after admission in a well-ventilated room, bright and cheerful, and removed from any noise, with a cheerful nurse in attendance.

2. For the first three days no reduction of the drug is attempted. On the fourth day the amount of morphine per dose is slightly increased and the period of abstinence lengthened, so that the quantity in the twenty-four hours is the same. This is continued until the patient gets only three doses in the twenty-four hours—namely, at 8 A.M., 4 P.M., and 11 P.M.—but the quantity is not decreased. This, as a rule, takes four or five days to accomplish, or eight to nine days from the time that the patient has been put to bed. The amount per dose is then steadily decreased, until one-eighth to one-tenth grain is reached; then the afternoon, evening, and morning doses are abolished in sequence. This generally takes fourteen to twenty-one days, but varies according to the conditions of the patient. During the early part of the treatment the patient has comparatively little discomfort or real illness, but as reduction goes on certain symptoms may arise which must be treated, of which the following are the principal:

Constipation.—An ordinary aperient at night, with Apenta water in the early morning, will rectify this.

Diarrhoea.—An astringent, such as tincture of catechu, will check this.

Neuritic pains, with muscular twitchings in the extremities and abdomen, are by far the commonest. I have found drugs of little avail here; but gentle massage, hot baths, and sponging with warm water are most useful in allaying this condition.

Insomnia.—I find isopral, in 15 to 25 grains, the most useful hypnotic in treatment of insomnia caused by morphine abstinence.

Tendency to Coma.—Digitalis or strophanthus I find most useful.

Mental Distress.—Constant attention by the physician and nurse will greatly assist to alleviate this symptom.

Delirium.—I find hydrobromide of hyosine in 1-150th grain doses most useful.

The symptoms as they arise are thus treated in the ordinary way, and they rapidly abate after the complete withdrawal of the drug has been accomplished, and the second stage is entered. Convalescence is secured by the ordinary means of any patient recovering from an illness. Nerve tonics are given, nourishing diet in an appetising form, fresh air with gentle exercise, massage, attention to the bowels, and, above all, freedom from worry or care.

Borax (257/9).—(1) The dull tint of the glazing starch would probably be improved by the addition of a little blue colouring, such as smalts. **(2) UNCAKEABLE SALT.**—Freedom from magnesium chloride, a very deliquescent salt, and the addition of a small proportion of calcium phosphate are the factors in the manufacture of this variety of table-salt. It is hardly possible to compete on a small scale with a product sold at the price you mention.

Cymro (259/72).—HAIR-WASH.—The proportion of quinine in the hair-wash which your customer asks for should be about 10 grains in 8 oz. Dissolve the quinine in a sufficiency of dilute sulphuric acid and add $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. glycerin, with rose-water to make 8 oz.

J. W. (249/35).—(1) SKIN-CREAM.—Two years ago we dealt with the subject of modern skin-creams exhaustively in a series of articles, since which time but few fresh contributions have been made to the common stock of knowledge. We

however append two formulæ which recently appeared in the "*Bulletin of Pharmacy*," as these are of the "vanishing" type you especially inquire about:

1. Stearic acid ...	...	...	36 oz.
Heavy petroleum ...	...	...	16 oz.
Powdered borax ...	...	...	1 oz.
Caustic potash ...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.
Distilled water ...	...	...	172 oz.
Perfume ...	...	...	a sufficiency

Melt the stearic acid on a water-bath, and when melted add the oil. Dissolve the potash in half the water, and bring to the same degree of heat as the stearic acid and oil. To the last-named mixture add the caustic solution, stirring all the while until combination has taken place. Dissolve the borax in the remainder of the water, and gradually add to the saponified mixture, continuing the heat until a perfectly uniform solution results. Remove from the water-bath and stir until cold.

2. Stearic acid ...	...	...	48 oz.
Powdered borax ...	...	...	24 oz.
Sodium carbonate (monohydrate) ...	...	...	28 oz.
Glycerin ...	...	...	24 oz.
Distilled water ...	...	...	288 oz.
Perfume ...	...	...	a sufficiency

Weigh the water, glycerin, borax, and soda into a suitable vessel and dissolve by the heat of a water-bath. When dissolved and at boiling point add the stearic acid in granular form, gradually stirring constantly till cold. Boiling water can be added if desired, to obtain a softer cream.

The perfumes are almost the most important part of these creams; about 1 oz. of either of the following is to be added to 20 lb. of the product given by either of the above formulæ:

1.	2.
Aubepine, liquid ... 4 oz.	Muguet royal ... 8 oz.
Concrete oil of orris ... 1 oz.	Otto rose ... $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Borvordial (10 %) ... $\frac{1}{8}$ oz.	Otto jasmine "Bush" ... $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
African rose geranium oil ... $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Ylang-ylang oil ... 1 oz.
Benzyl acetate ... 1 oz.	Artificial musk (100%) ... $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.
Alcohol ... 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.	Alcohol ... 6 oz.

(2) LIQUID DEPILETORY.—This is a solution of sodium sulphide of a strength of from 20 to 25 per cent. It is perfumed with lavender.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "*The Chemist and Druggist*," April 15, 1861.

American Finance.

If the pilgrim fathers of protection had migrated in a body to the Disunited States; if Chowler were rampant in Washington, and the shade of Sibthorpe in Montgomery, we might have expected such suicidal degrading measures as the Morrill Tariff and its Southern imitator. The latter, with the exception of the export duty on cotton, is more liberal by 50 per cent. than the former, but it is still unsound, and anti-progressive in spirit. The Northern Tariff has become law, for the present, though our private advices and public reports give us hope that a few weeks will witness the inauguration of a financial policy far more beneficial to the country. The lists of articles taxed with different degrees of permissive and prohibitory duty is so long, and so complicated, that it has scared even the largest of our daily contemporaries from publishing it. We propose to give an analysis of its contents showing only the taxation of those articles in which our trade is interested—as soon as we feel sure that it is likely to become law for a time, and not a mere piece of temporary, foolhardy legislation, springing out of a quarrel and produced to spite the "shop next door." At this moment we do not think it necessary to encumber our pages with a mass of dry, mean, and often ridiculous details, which may be swept away in a few days under wiser counsels, when the two divided members of the new firm shall have settled down quietly and energetically in their separate lines of business. The Southern Tariff, which, according to despatches, is not to come into force until May, we shall also analyse, if its provisions should prove to be of a tolerably permanent character. We only hope, in the interest of the great American people and for the growth and welfare of a country which, divided or undivided, gives such hopeful promise for the future, that the sound sense which must lie at the bottom of all American institutions will again make itself heard in international finance. At a time when our tariff has been clipped and lopped, until from containing a thousand and more articles it now scarcely contains fifty, it is a sorry spectacle to see a great free country going back fifty years in a financial policy that can only check trade and impoverish the working, growing people.

MINOR EXPERIENCES.

Embryo Medico (141/48) tells how to do the Minor on 157: very town of any size has its technical school, and it was one of these that I, at a nominal cost, did my work for the minor. The town in which I was apprenticed had no science school of any kind, but the principal had the welfare of his aff at heart and gave us every opportunity to read, with the result that I had passed my Preliminary and Apothecaries' all Assistant's exams. after I had been two years at the school. At the end of a four-years' apprenticeship I made my way to London, where I took a part-time berth and determined to read for my Minor. Unfortunately, my work lay far away from any school, and as funds were very low I rew up the berth in disgust for one in a country town with good technical school, having previously arranged with my employer to get some time off for classes. The school offered entry of scope in the way of chemistry and physics: botany, materia medica, and pharmacy I undertook "on my own," and two winter sessions in chemistry, and during that time augmented the routine work of the school by doing a little physics and setting myself tests in strictly B.P. substances named in the syllabus. At the same time I kept my materia medica, pharmacy, and botany going, and during the summer months I did field botany. I collected most of the specimens set forth for recognition by Minor candidates and got a good general idea of the natural orders. In this my master was most helpful, as he was an excellent botanist. I shaped my course in strict accordance with the syllabus, and before sitting for the examination I got one of the London schools to send me down a series of botanical slides. This was the only outside help that I had, and it cost me about 2s. 6d. My other classes cost me a guinea, which was more than returned in the form of book prizes. As I was led to regard my chances of success as small, I kept my "shot" a profound secret except among a few trade friends. On the fateful day was the first to arrive at Galen Place, London, W.C., and on my next arrival, who had done his practical work the previous day, reported great difficulties: while later my sorely tried nervous system was further rudely shaken by being shown a candidate who was making his fourteenth appearance. On proceeding to the examination-hall, I was duly sent for.

DISPENSING.—The paper contained a mixture, pills, 6 oz. of a percentage solution of potassium permanganate, 500 grains of sodii phosphas effervescens, and a blister for the ear. The mixture was as follows:

Sod. bicarb.	...	...	...	...	...	5ij.
Bismuth. carb.	...	...	...	...	...	5ij.
P. tragac.	...	...	...	...	...	℥ss.
Syr. aurantii	...	...	...	...	...	3ss.
Inf. calumbæ ad	...	...	...	...	...	3viij.

I asked if I had to prepare the infus. calumb. The examiner looked at this slip, asking if I did not always prepare it. I replied that in the biggest dispensing-establishments it was the duty of one man to prepare all common infusions each morning, and that I anticipated something similar. I took the precaution to rub the tragacanth and other powders together, made them into a paste with the syr. aurant., and finally got a perfectly smooth mixture. This was evidently what was wanted, as the examiner afterwards diluted a small quantity to a large volume and scrutinised it carefully. The pills were simple, but contained an odd fraction of a grain of opium in the dozen. The examiner asked how this was weighed. The sod. phosph. efferves. was new ground to me, but I worked from the B.P. directions and got a fair result. The blister was made too large, with the result that I was asked if it was intended for an elephant.

PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY consisted of a powder to analyse and report on its purity, and a solution of potassium bichromate standardised by means of ferrous ammonium sulphate. The powder proved to be salicin with tartaric acid and calcium salts as impurities—a severe test for a candidate trained at a technical school unless he had familiarised himself with organic substances in the Minor syllabus. On the second

CHEMISTRY was the first subject, and the first question was sulphuric acid. Its preparation, including the manufacturing process in detail, was gone into, with equations. The graphic formula of the acid was also asked for. Next came calcium hydrate, preparation and properties. Then "How dilute hydrocyanic acid made?" with graphic representation, and "What occurs when it decomposes in solution?" Lastly, how would I determine the volume of a cube of metal by measurement, and what are the data necessary to do it by weight without weighing?

MATERIA MEDICA proved very easy. I was first required to pick out a genuine specimen of beeswax from several samples, which I did from colour and general appearance. The examiner further told me that the best general test is

to rub the thumb over the surface: if it sticks you have an adulterated wax. Next came aconite-root, castor-oil seeds, bayberries, and cocculus indicus for identification, with questions on their active principles and the methods of extracting them. Immediately after I was sent to

PHARMACY, where my good spirits were maintained. The B.P. specimens, tinctures, ointments, etc., were such as should be recognised by anyone who had made good use of his eyes and nose during his training. Questions were also asked which involved a good knowledge of the methods of making B.P. preparations. The estimation of strychnine in liquid extract of nux vomica was also required. In

PRESCRIPTION-READING I was soon in difficulties in putting into full Latin some very long directions about mixing and using a breakfast-cupful of lotion. I made an attempt, but got mixed in my Latin and French (which latter I was at that time reading). The examiner asked me if I was a Frenchman, but on getting a negative reply he seemed to take a more hopeful view of my case. A few badly written prescriptions which I deciphered were followed by some doses before going to

BOTANY.—I had first to show I knew how to manipulate a microscope by arranging the light and getting the instrument in focus. Next I had a slide to "spot," and as I had caught a glance of the label (T. S. root) while the examiner was arranging it, I accordingly gave a quick and decided answer. However, I had to give reasons for my answer. Then came a section with lacunæ, followed by questions on their contents and function. Also a plant to assign to the N.O. *Umbelliferae*. Finally I was shown a plant which had been standing in a coloured solution overnight but was now in water. This led to questions on transpiration, whereupon the examiner said that that would do.

When I turned from the botany-table everybody had left the room except the examiners and one solitary candidate whom they were holding in close conversation, so I made for the door. I was soon being questioned by an expectant crowd as to whether I was "through" or not, when the attendant came out calling my name. On getting back the President asked me what I ran away for. Had I never been here before? I replied that I had not, and was therefore unfamiliar with the routine. He then shook my hand and offered his congratulations, adding that he hoped soon to meet me at the Major.

Primus (158/66) gives his account of the Minor as follows:

FIRST DAY'S WORK.—(1) Estimate the amount of available oxygen in 1 gram of the mixture of potassium chromate and potassium sulphate (pure ferrous ammonium sulphate provided); (2) analyse qualitatively the mixture of two substances. I found 0.12 gram of available oxygen, and returned the salt as copper sulphate and magnesium carbonate.

The DISPENSING paper consisted of:

Make jiv. liq. plumbi subacet. fort.

Send 5ij. of 0.25 per cent. perchloride of mercury in soft paraffin.

Zinci oxid.	...	...	...	...	...	gr. x.
Glycerin. supp. ad	...	...	...	...	...	5ij.
Ft. pess. Mitte vj.						

Sodii salicyl.	...	...	...	...	...	5ij.
Tr. quinine	...	...	...	...	...	3j.
Inf. aurant. co. ad	...	...	...	...	...	3viij.

M. ft. mist. $\frac{1}{2}$ t.d.s.

Acid. carbol.	...	...	...	...	...	gr. j.
Ext. nucis vom.	...	...	...	...	...	gr. $\frac{1}{4}$

Ft. pil. Mitte xij. Varnish.

j post prandium sum.

SECOND DAY'S WORK.—The oral portion began with **CHEMISTRY.**—First name the oxides of sulphur. Give their appearance and preparation; also use of the platinised asbestos. What are catalytic agents? Then questions on oxides of arsenic (and appearance), oxides of chromium, and oxides of phosphorus. What do the last-named yield on treatment with water? Preparation of oxalic acid, with formula. Have you ever prepared any yourself? (I gave sugar and nitric acid.) What is the action of the nitric acid? Preparation of chloral hydrate, and several questions on the details. How are formic acid and formaldehyde made? Enumerate the laws of chemical combination.

PRESCRIPTION-READING.—What quantity of a 1-in-3,000 solution will eight tablets of hyd. perchlor. make, each containing 8.75 grains? One prescription to translate into full Latin and several to read in English, noting any peculiarities; also about twelve doses.

PHARMACY.—Gregory's powder was given for recognition, followed by question on ingredients. Then ext. bellad. viride, which I did not recognise. Is it standardised? Other extracts, strengths, and preparations into which the liquid extract of belladonna enters. Preparation and strength of

lin. belladonnae and liq. bismuthi. What is the use of the potassium carbonate in the latter, and why not use bismuth citrate in powder? Next terebene was shown: what is it chemically? State how it is made. Then a syphon was shown, with several questions on its use and also as regards those of a reflux condenser. Questions on the sale of Easton's syrup, tablets, and arsenical preparations. Strengths of three injections, and mode of preparation. Why use acids?

MATERIA MEDICA.—Give the botanical source, constituents, and preparations of sarsaparilla and myrrh. Then specimens for recognition of euphorbium, horehound (is it official or not?), chiretta, eucalyptus-leaves (give preparation of oil and B.P. tests for same). Botanical source of red gum. Next I was shown a large leaf, which I said was digitalis. On being asked to give characteristics, I found that the under-surface was not hairy, so said that I did not know what the specimen consisted of. Next stramonium-leaves, giving active ingredients. How to distinguish between atropine, hyoscyne, and hyoscyamine. Which is the most stable alkaloid, and which has the highest melting-point? What is the effect of atropine on the eye? How would you distinguish between carefully dried belladonna and stramonium leaves?

BOTANY.—Name the Natural Order of a specimen. Describe the leaves, fruits, placentation, and stamens of *N.O. Leguminosae*, stamens, ovary, and placentation of the *Cruciferae*, and gynaecium of the *Solanaceae*. Sketch a stoma and give its functions. Describe the effect of light on the rate of growth of a plant. Then three slides under the microscope showing a dicot. stem with secondary growth and annual rings; and an ovary (questions on it); a section showing bicollateral bundles.

At one o'clock I sat on the "form" to await the result. I saw my *confreres* congratulated or dismissed. *Ma foi!* What an eternity! At 1.45 I was alone, and then got up and inquired if something had gone wrong. My botany report was not to hand: I found it on the botany examination-table and handed it in. I held my breath as I watched the addition sum (16), and then I breathed as a Minor man.

JAPANESE JOTTINGS.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondent.)

DR. SUZUKI, the director of the Kobe Hospital, has left for Europe in order to inspect the medical and pharmaceutical conditions prevailing on the Trans-Siberian route.

THE LABORATORIES of the Japanese Metropolitan Police have been enlarged. There is now a drug, chemical food, and drink examination laboratory; also a library and reception-room.

DR. R. TAHARA, of Yakugakuhakushi, and Dr. T. Takagi, chemist to the Formosan Governor-General, are to represent Japan at the forthcoming International Opium Conference at The Hague.

DR. HEISABURO KONDO, pharmacist major, of Yakugakuhakushi, who has been in Germany and Austria for three years to study pharmacy at his own expense, has returned to Japan.

MR. YASUGORO KITABATAKE, of Yakugakuhakushi, chief pharmacist of the Juntendo Hospital of Tokyo, has left for Germany and Hungary to purchase chemical and pharmaceutical apparatus.

FORFARSHIRE CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.—At the annual meeting held at Dundee on April 19 the following office-bearers were elected: *Hon. President*, Mr. Chas. Kerr; *President*, Mr. John Gray; *Vice-President*, Mr. T. S. Peebles; *Committee*, Messrs. C. Kerr, J. L. Doig, J. H. Thomson, G. J. Lindsay, J. P. Ferrier, and Wm. Walker (Dundee); also Messrs. J. S. Whyte (Arbroath), J. Hulton (Brechin), G. Fleming (Broughty Ferry), A. Davidson (Montrose), M. Macfarlane (Forfar), D. Buchanan (Kirriemuir), W. R. Kermath (St. Andrews), and A. Chalmers (Newport); *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. Henry J. Hunt, 68 High Street, Dundee.

PORTSMOUTH PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 19, Mr. T. A. White presiding. Mr. Tremlett brought forward the report of the Trade Section Committee, which had considered the advisability of fixing the amounts of various poisonous substances to be sold for pennyworths, as raised by Mr. Sparrow. The members agreed to the following as maximum quantities: Salts of lemon, sorrel, sugar of lead, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; precipitate, 40 grains; oxalic acid, 1 oz.; and laudanum, 1 drachm. Several other substances were discussed, but were not made subject to agreement. Mr. Sparrow's idea of wrapping in crimson paper will be followed. Other business done will be referred to later.

COMING EVENTS.

This section of the "C. & D." is reserved for advance notices of meetings or other events which are sent to the Editor by Wednesday of the week before the meetings, etc., occur.

Tuesday, April 25.

Hull Association of Pharmacists, Grosvenor Hotel, Carr Lane, at 9 P.M. Monthly meeting.

Wednesday, April 26.

Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. Noel Heaton, B.Sc., F.C.S., on "The Production and Identification of Imitation and Artificial Gems."

Public Pharmacists' and Dispensers' Association, St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, London, E.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. Noel Clark, lantern-lecture on "Photomicrography," with special reference to the British ticks.

Western Pharmacists' Association, York Room, Frascati's Restaurant, Oxford Street, London, W., at 7.30 P.M. Whist-drive. Tickets (3s. 6d. each, including refreshments) from Mr. C. T. Allen, 20 High Road, Kilburn, N.W.

Croydon Pharmacists' Association, Concert Hall, Greyhound Hotel, High Street, at 8 P.M. Bohemian concert. Tickets (2s. 6d. each) from the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. S. A. Noble, Selsdon Road, South Croydon; and Mr. C. Dickinson, 119 South End, Croydon.

Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association, George Hotel, at 9 P.M. Mr. W. Gill on "Bacteria: Their Place in the Economy of Nature."

Thursday, April 27.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, London, W., at 3 P.M. Professor R. W. Wood on "The Optical Properties of Metallic Vapours" (Tyndall Lecture, I.).

Cheltenham Chemists' Association, Oriental Café, High Street, at 9 P.M. Mr. M. C. Mansbridge, "Impressions of A Trip to New Zealand and Back."

Plymouth, Devonport and Stonchouse Association of Pharmacists, 7 Whimble Street, Plymouth, at 9.30 P.M. Mr. T. D. Venning, L.D.S., on "The Teeth, their Diseases and Treatment."

Birkenhead and Wirral Association of Pharmacists, Woodside Hotel, Birkenhead. Annual dinner.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION.—Royal Agricultural Hall, London, N., from May 13 to 27 inclusive. Admission 1s.

NORTH KENT PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.—The eighth annual dinner will be held at the Royal Mortar Hotel, Woolwich on May 3. Mr. W. L. Currie and Mr. W. S. Glynn-Jones, M.P., have promised to attend. Tickets (5s. each) from Mr. R. Feaver Clarke, Daneholme, Pelham Road, Gravesend.

FAIRCHILD SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES.—The examination for these will take place in June. They are open to registered students of pharmacy in Great Britain and Ireland, and those who intend to enter should apply for application forms to Mr. A. E. Holden, Albert Chambers, 64-65 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. June 1 is the last date on which an application to sit for the examination can be received.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The week commencing May 8 is to be devoted to receiving members of the Society who choose to visit 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. The members' room will be in charge of one or other of the Society's officials from 11 to 1 and 3 to 5 each day. On May 10 there will be a reception at the Holborn Restaurant at 8 P.M., at which music and light refreshments will be provided.

COLLEGE NOTES.

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.—At the recent competitive examinations the following students were successful in obtaining awards: *Silver Medal*.—Mr. George Little. *Certificates of Merit*.—Chemistry and Physics: Messrs. J. Gover, G. Little, R. D. Thompson, and D. P. Williams. Practical Chemistry: Messrs. J. Gover, S. Williams, Mitchell, G. Little, R. D. Thompson, and D. P. Williams. Botany: Messrs. J. Gover, G. Little and R. D. Thompson. Materia Medica: Messrs. G. Little and R. D. Thompson. Pharmacy: Messrs. Craven, J. Gover, G. Little, R. D. Thompson, and D. P. Williams. Dispensing: Messrs. J. Gover, G. Little, S. Mitchell, C. G. Ostler, R. D. Thompson, and D. P. Williams.